Agriculture Education
Cycle Theme: Meaning & Purpose
Opportunity Outside the Classroom

"To mean something is to have value, to be definable, to feel significant. To have a purpose means to bring value to something, to make something significant." (quora.com).

"You're going to hear my voice when I shout it out loud" - Bon Jovi

Opportunity outside the classroom goals:

- Provide a hands on experience to connect academic content to practical applications
- Give students a memorable experience in nature
- Allow students to demonstrate our class expectations, core values and sense of community to a guest expert

As a part of their work in agriculture education students will experience time outside of the classroom as they plant bulbs of spring flowers in our school's memory garden. During the planting they will have an opportunity to bury a name and message to a lost loved one. Through this experience the adolescent can meet their need for meaning & purpose and a deep connection to nature. Students will invest time in planting and then see the blooms months later.

This is an event that brings up complicated feelings and allows students to have deep discussions about meaning & purpose while using their hands to honor the memory of those who have passed. It also allows students to use tools specific to the task of planting bulbs and apply academic lessons on horticulture.

Students are assessed by their ability to follow directions, meet expectations and complete their bulb planting properly.

Logistical information needed to happen in organizing the event: confirm delivery date of bulbs from South Western Ohio Daffodil Society (SWODS contact: Fred), request a quote from SWODS and raise a purchase order, inventory bulb planters and select 25 (order more if needed), print message templates, instruct students on proper planting techniques, give clear expectations on solemn nature of the event and how to be respectful, check the weather and plant on a clear day that is above 40 degrees fahrenheit and follows at least three days of dry weather.

Ideas for future experiences: collaborate with staff from Spring Grove Cemetery to discuss memorial landscapes & horticulture, plant alongside SWODS members, invite other classes to participate and have agriculture students train them in proper planting techniques, have bulbs donated from Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden (CZBG), have students plant alongside CZBG staff