

HOFFMAN TRAILS
“Open doors open minds...Open minds open doors”
Project Spring 2011



Included:

- ∞ Project Summary
- ∞ Visuals (From The Ohio State University Union—inspiration behind the idea)

SUMMARY:

“Open doors open minds...Open minds open doors” will be an aesthetically pleasing visual art component that will greet visitors as they enter our school. This project is unique as students will continue to study the Ohio Social Studies curriculum with a unique twist in which students’ work will captivate and create a K-5 visual of our communities’ histories (local, state and national). The main wall will be painted light blue. The door frames will be navy blue. Each door will be painted with a vertical flag—left to right Hilliard flag, Ohio flag, America flag and Future flag (to be determined). Backer boards will be placed behind the door openings that can be attached and unattached for a new group of students to create. Every six years (after students have graduated from Hoffman Trails Elementary), we will remove the backer boards and repeat the project with a new K-5 group of students. A clear protectant will be painted over the students’ work to help preserve the items.

This project creates a legacy for students. The wall of doors will be visually pleasing in art form as well as educationally enriching. The intrigue of the doors will welcome students, community and visitors to open the doors. Upon opening the doors, inquisitive people will be flooded with facts, timelines, maps, cultural sharings, settlement archives, and backgrounds of

our community past and future. As students look for their own work and works of their friends and siblings, they will be gaining new knowledge.

At Hoffman Trails, as we design our experiences for students, a main focus of planning is creating authentic work and providing engagement for 21st century skills involving critical thinking skills, creativity, collaboration and communication for our students. This project will generate enthusiasm, pride (pride in student work and pride in our history), and school unity.

The project idea is modeled after the Doors to the Union at The Ohio State University. The doors at the Union depict time periods—each door encompasses history from a specific time period. Upon opening the doors, visitors can gain understanding of the nation as well as The Ohio State University and Union. The photos from the Union help explain how we will adapt this idea and concept to Hoffman Trails’ “*Open doors open minds... Open minds open doors*” project.

Hoffman Trails’ doors have a similar concept and structure. All four Hoffman Trails’ Doors are rectangular in size. The exterior of each door will be painted white and then painted in representation of a vertically hanging flag.



[April 12, 2011—photo of our door project in progress]

[Above: View of doors at The Ohio State University Union.]

Each teacher/grade level can decide how they want to approach this project. When the doors are opened, students, community and visitors will be greeted with student created artifacts that might include pictures (from the internet or student drawn), newspaper clippings (real or student created) and summaries of artifacts, moments in history and interesting facts that define each door’s region (city, state, country or future). Grades K-2 will complete the future door interior contents, 3rd graders will complete the Hilliard door contents, 4th graders will complete the Ohio

door contents and 5th graders will complete the American door content—aligning with Ohio Content Standards for instructional benchmarks in Social Studies.

The Social Studies Curriculum Content being explored, investigated, researched and represented at grades K-5 at a glance includes: *(a more explicit list of grade level indicators that could be addressed by this project is attached as a reference if needed)*

- ∞ History
 - a) Chronology
 - b) Growth
 - c) Settlement
- ∞ People in Societies
 - a) Cultures
 - b) Interactions
- ∞ Geography
 - a) Locations
 - b) Places and Regions
- ∞ Human Environmental Interactions
 - a) Movement

All grades:

The goal of the project is to design an authentic learning experience for our students utilizing 21st century learning skills that will also help create a positive climate and evoke a sense of community pride at Hoffman Trials Elementary School. Another benefit of the project is how the students' work will educate our families and community members who enter our building as guests about Hilliard, Ohio and American history. The future door will create intrigue, discussion, predictions, and wonder about our future and the impacts of development over time upon our lives and culture.