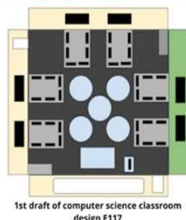


SOLUTION

WHAT'S NOT WORKING



STEP 2

Create an atmosphere that enables female students to feel successful

We want to communicate with the current computer science educators at Burnsville High School on how to create an equally inviting environment for both the male and female students. This includes allowing for female students to become comfortable first with their female peers then their male ones.



FUNDING

How will we pay for the project materials and labor cost?

We need to communicate with BHS administration to establish how to delegate the work load of the project. Additionally we would need to look into grants that will serve to fund the project.



STEP 1

Create a physical environment engaging to female students

We want to add more flexible learning furniture into the computer science classroom. We also would like to paint a wall green and add more inviting posters. We also must communicate with other female in what they are looking for in a STEM class.



STEP 3

Effectively advertise the updated changes.

Whether it be through the creation of promotional videos or posters, We need to advertise the changes in the STEM programs. We should create a website that features the work of the computer science classes as well.



TIMELINE

What is the timeline for this project?

We can hope to implement this project over the summer of 2020. In talking to administration and custodial staff we can coordinate labor and costs.

A Detrimental Gender Gap

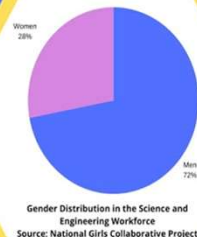
How can we close the gender gap in Burnsville high school's elective computer science classes?

Problem

At Burnsville High School there is a lack of female students enrolled in computer science classes. The gender gap is more serious than just parity of numbers. Society needs more women in STEM fields and careers not only to create a more efficient and inclusive innovation but also for social and economic benefits.

Abstract

As a district we aren't doing enough to keep females in STEM classes like our computer science classes. As a result the remaining Females are severely outnumbered in these classes. We can start to address this disparity by modifying our computer science classrooms and curriculum to fit the needs of our female students



STEM

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. STEM classes and careers follow these disciplines. They are important because they are found in all aspects of life. Today in STEM careers, the population is disproportionately male.

Causes/Effects of the Gender Gap

- biased societal norms about women
- challenging atmospheres in high school and college
- deterring innovation efficiency, safety, and inclusivity

Research

I found the majority of my information from credible academic articles. I used the research of several studies done by scientists and analysts. I struggled as a researcher to find a feasible solution for the time frame and small budget I had in mind. I switched from several ideas as I communicated with peers, teachers, and administrators through a series of interviews on how to address the gender gap. After many long hours of research I was able to successfully formulate a feasible solution to the gender gap in Burnsville High School's Computer Science classes.

STEM Elective Requirements

Even though pushing for the elective requirement may seem like a good idea at first it becomes extremely difficult to students "locked" into other elective tracks.

STEM Programs and Activities

Although this approach fails to address and incorporate girls not already introduced to STEM careers and pathways.

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What can you do to help?

You can educate yourselves about STEM classes available at your high school. Students should look specifically at computer science electives to fill their class schedules. Both students and adults should research to understand the benefits that taking a computer science, or other STEM class can offer to them. You can also work to promote STEM electives in your high school by talking to your peers and young adults in the community.