The BIG Question

What is an EAST Project?

That seems to be the most frequently asked question in EAST classrooms everywhere. What is an EAST project? The truth is: There is not one easy answer. EAST projects can be a great number of things. EAST is all about project-based learning and community service; EAST students use cutting-edge technology to solve problems they identify in their communities. Often the students provide services not otherwise available in the community.

This presents a problem. Students are conditioned to expect their teacher to:
1. Make the plan
2. Tell them what to do
3. Tell them how to do it
4. Tell them when it's due

That is not how things work in EAST. In EAST, students are required to improve their ability to:
1. Make the plan
2. Determine what they want to accomplish
3. Determine the best way to do it
4. See it through to completion
5. Document their progress
   a. Photos
   b. Videos
   c. Email
   d. Sign-in sheets
   e. Project schedule
   f. Notes (if necessary)

In fact, sometimes it is easier to define what an EAST project is not.

EAST Projects are NOT:

- PowerPoint presentations
- Fundraisers
- Print shop requests
- Research papers
- Microsoft Office creations
- Easy assignments

As mentioned at the beginning of the year, the purpose of EAST is to grow the student, not grow the project. EAST Projects should be opportunities for you (the student) to go beyond the typical classroom setting and provide a service for an organization or someone other than yourself.

EAST Projects CAN BE but are NOT LIMITED TO:

- Videos
  - Documentaries about historical locations
  - Safety videos
    - Hunting safety
    - Home safety
    - Stranger danger
  - Informational videos
    - Medical issues
    - School district information
  - Newscast
    - BirdTV
      - Local newscast for SHS and/or SJHS
  - School events
    - Sports
    - Junior class play
      - Filming and editing the Junior Class Play.
      - See Watson for details on this project.

- Graphic Design
  - Posters
    - Project posters
    - Event posters
      - Red Ribbon Week
      - Homecoming
      - Wings Over the Prairie

- Geographic Information/Global Positioning Systems (GIS/GPS)
  - Mapping
    - Cemetery mapping/databases
    - Where does the water go?
    - Farming information
    - Storm information

- - - - tornado damage
      - Before/After maps
  - Routing
    - Bus routes
    - Emergency evacuation routes
    - Mass evacuation of school facility planning

- Health/Environmental
  - Recycling programs
    - Paper
    - Plastic
    - E-waste
  - Staying fit/living healthy
    - SOS (Stamp Out Smoking)
    - Diabetes Awareness
    - Cancer in Arkansas County Awareness
    - School/Community Health Fair

- Community Programs
  - Prevention programs
    - Child Safety
      - Car seat awareness
    - Crime data/maps
    - School/Community Health Fair
    - Community Beautification projects
      - See Watson!

- Information Technologies
  - Web design
    - Non-profits
    - Stuttgart classes, clubs, sports, or organizations
  - STEM Night (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
    - Colleges and universities from around the state will come out for STEM night.
      - If you think you would like to participate in this type of project, you have to start early. It can't be thrown together at the last minute or with a week's worth of planning.

A Few Words About Stuttgart …

Contrary to what you may think about our community ("It's too small …", "There's nothing to do here …", "People are so stuck up …", etc.), Stuttgart has a lot of good things going for it. There are organizations here that are involved in making Stuttgart a better place. We have a growing number of programs for community change, an education foundation that provides incredible opportunities for students, and a number of faith-based organizations that work to help the less fortunate and impoverished.

We are not in competition with them. Our role is to supplement them and to provide a voice for change and improvement from within the school system.

You have access to a wide variety of tools and programs inside this classroom that are not available to other classes in our school district. What other class gives you the opportunity to work with GIS and GPS software? Where else can you explore the world in virtual reality? Where else can you explore your own interests and learn something new while helping someone out along the way?