

**Pilot Name: The Maker Space Barn**

**School/District Name: Maine Academy of Natural Sciences**

**Contact: Evan Coleman**

**Overview:**

As a project-based learning school rooted in the natural sciences, the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences will be constructing a Maker Space Barn to engage students in experiential outdoor projects while providing the resources and space to offer a blacksmithing course on campus to all interested students.

Since the founding of the school in 2012, MeANS has partnered with a local blacksmith to provide metal working opportunities to a small group of students. Sadly, this past year, he passed away, leaving behind some funding, equipment, and a letter urging the New England Black Smithing Association to assist us in continuing the legacy of blacksmithing at the Maine Academy of Natural Sciences. With the guidance and support of a former MeANS graduate, we hope to honor these wishes by providing an on-campus blacksmithing course for students, while infusing our classroom projects with carpentry, woodworking, metalworking, and other artisanal pursuits.

As a school, we will also be hiring an Agriculture Assistant to support teachers and students in utilizing the greenhouses, outdoor classrooms, one-acre farm, and apiary that we have on our campus. Whether it be holding classes at the barn, cleaning produce to share with our community at Harvest Fest, or studying our aquaponic system, we will use this position and funding to make sure that all classes are focused on engaging students through experiential projects and hands-on learning outdoors. We see the Maker Space Barn as a place to increase engagement, where students can harness their academic and vocational passions in their daily learning while building plans for their aspirations after high school.

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