

# STUDENT INNOVATION: The 2021 Governor's STEM Challenge



"How would you improve the lives of Pennsylvanians?" This question was asked by the 2021 Governor's STEM Challenge. Students in Janice Beitzel's Deaf and Hard of Hearing classroom used the problem-solving design process to design and build the Communication Desk, an invention made to improve communication for themselves and others who are part of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

The students included features that would benefit people who are deaf/hard of hearing, such as adding a drop leaf to allow more room for signing to each other. They even added a whiteboard desktop for adequate visual communication. The students coded a Micro:bit as an easy way to get each other's attention, since they can't always hear when someone calls their name.

They culminated the project with a video about their innovation and the community partners they worked with. PDE announced that the students in the deaf/hard of hearing class got 3rd runner up in Division II for their Communication Desk! The students learned so many new skills through this process. We are so proud of them! Congratulations!

## Contact Information

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