

Best Practices in School Gardens

Small Group Sizes in the Garden = Behavior Management and Maximum Joy

Keep it Simple!

Don't try to DO too much. Start small, be present for students, have activity prepared. Endless explorations with: outdoor compost pile, bed of soil, and worms

Tools of the Trade:

garden journal, magnifying glass, trowel, pruners, small clipboard, garden rules

Be Intentional. Our garden values are curiosity, connection, and respecting all life.

The community knows best! This is where the power, passion, vision and knowledge lives. Become a collaborator and follow their lead.

Develop & Leverage Partnerships. Local organizations, coalitions, community members, state partners, school admin, and teachers are vast resources. Connect!

Examples of Topics Covered in Garden Classes:

- Wonder Questions
- Relationships
- Ethical Decision Making
- Joyful Experiences, Using our Senses
- Biodiversity
- Interdependence
- Honorable Harvest, Indigenous Teachings
- Pollinators
- Decomposers, Compost & Worms
- Culturally Relevant Foods & Tastings
- Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy Body
- Life Skills
- Growing Food, In Class & Where we Live
- Family Wondering Walks
- **Social Emotional Learning**, Whole Child Focus (A school identified need)

A Participant Centered Program

Asks Partners: what are the community needs and assets?

May Require: expanding skill sets in response to needs

Uses: time and resources to support the goals that already exist within the community

Is Flexible: allows programming to occupy a space between curriculum and PSE, and may look different for each county

Looks Like: a dynamic and authentic collaboration

RESOURCE LIST

Life Lab

<https://lifelab.org>

Learning In Places

<http://learninginplaces.org>

GRuB

<https://www.goodgrub.org>

Tilth Alliance

<https://tilthalliance.org>

WSU Master Gardeners

<https://mastergardener.wsu.edu>

Slow Food USA

<https://slowfoodusa.org/school-gardens>

Soul Fire Farm

<https://www.soulfirefarm.org>

Duwamish Tribe

<https://www.duwamishtribe.org>

*Let's get
connected!*

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