

McKinley Garden Farm-to-School Program

What: The McKinley Garden -Farm-to-School Program consists of two complementary and integrated projects: (1) creating and tending the McKinley Garden and (2) providing occasional Farm-to-School meals and highlighting a Pick-of-the-Month fruit or vegetable in the lunch cafeteria. It also



- Is a volunteer-run effort, consisting primarily of McK parents
- involves McK students in garden activities and F2S meals
- includes McKinley staff and teachers in all levels of communication, planning and policies
- seeks ways to integrate garden and natural learning with benchmark-focused curriculum
- engages business and community leaders as resource people, instructors and sponsors
- is in partnership with School district staff on intended projects and goals

Why: Each child, in each school, in each of our communities deserves to be healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. That's what a whole child approach to learning, teaching, and community engagement really is.

Vision: To create a long-term integrated program that integrates student learning and appreciation of where and how food is produced, and the importance and pleasure of eating a diverse and healthy diet. This program also seeks to create and share a replicable approach to student, family, teacher, district and community involvement that can be used by other Salem area schools.

How:

(1) The Garden

- built by parents, kids, and supporters – Spring and Fall 2011
- Currently comprised of 13 raised beds and an orchard/fruit area
- Each classroom has a bed to plant
- Garden blog on school website

(2) Curriculum

- Guest speakers in Classrooms
- Field trips
 - Tied to Science, Math & Language Arts standards
 - Topics: composting, healthy soils, environmental science, food sourcing & distribution, nutrition, gardening, service learning and more.
- Parent Classroom Liaisons for each class

(3) Farm-to-School Meals

- Bon Appetit provides two community dinners every year.
 - The Fall Harvest 100 mile meal
 - The Spring Garden Party
- Pick-of-the-Month locally sourced lunched coordinated with Sodexo
 - Goal: Local, sustainable, healthy, no waste meals for all students
 - Pick of the Month features a local product in the classrooms & cafeteria

(4) Local Partners and Resources

- Garden Coordinator – Brenda and Christopher (FoodCorps)
 - After School Programs
 - Tasting Tables
- Farmers in the Garden
 - Local farmers volunteer to teach kids about plants & farming
 - Example: Elizabeth from Minto Island Growers helped Mr. J's class plant lettuce & peas

