



Big Cypress Elementary

3250 Golden Gate Blvd. W.
Naples, FL 34120

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- K-5th grades
- 864 students

Garden Profile:

- First year for garden program
- K-5th graders participate in garden
- No staff paid to assist garden
- No volunteers

General Garden Information:

This is the first year of our garden. Many teachers and administration came together to develop a plan to construct the garden. We devised a budget with a list of items that would be needed and our wonderful PTA donated money to the cause. We also had a couple generous donations from parents which included mulch and soil. Our school community has a strong desire to create a space where children can learn and enjoy the process of growing their own food. We have had many staff members attend your Collier Greens classes and they have passed on the knowledge attained to students and other staff members and utilized this knowledge in our own garden. We are all learning from this experience and we have a strong desire to make it a successful endeavor for the benefit of our students and the environment.

Garden Site:

Our garden is about 25' x 25'. Nearly 100% is edible plants; however, we have small marigolds planted as a pest deterrent. We have six small raised beds that are about 4' x 4' and a couple of longer beds that are about 4' x 10'. We also have EarthBoxes in and around the garden where we have grown herbs, strawberries, and tomatoes.



Student Involvement & Education:

We currently do not have a particular garden program in place. We have tried to include all grade levels since this is a new endeavor. Each grade level has a plot. We may alter this plan due to increased or decreased interest; however, it will still be our goal to include the whole school in the process of learning how to garden and grow crops in Florida. We'd like to keep everyone involved and knowledgeable about what is happening and what stages the garden is in. As our garden grows in size and in available harvest, we will continue to provide ways to include the whole school. Second grade has set up a rotating schedule where each week a new teacher chooses students to water the garden daily. Many teachers have used the garden as a tool to engage students with hands on lessons targeting the Florida State Standards.

Garden Product:

We have grown vegetables in the garden but did not produce a high yield until now. We realized that the garden was not growing at a normal rate because it wasn't receiving enough water. We have a sprinkler system set up but it was not enough to saturate the soil. We also added some organic soil with added nutrients to help. Since then, the plants have really grown. We plan on presenting the harvest on the morning news for all the students to see. Each individual grade level will decide what to do with the produce in their plots.

Parent Engagement:

Parents have been engaged in supporting the process of beginning the garden. There is a lot of continued interest and as this is a new endeavor, we will continue to provide ways to engage parents in the future.

Goals:

Our goal for next year's garden would be to begin a gardening club for students. This would allow for more focused involvement on an ongoing basis. We would like to expand the variety of our crops and also promote awareness. For example, garden club participants would report the progress of the garden on our morning news program. We would like to start a vermicomposting system, create a space where students can sit and enjoy the garden, and include signage that informs them of the garden rules and identifying the crops. We have also discussed the possibility of fundraising, which may involve selling seedlings to raise money for garden projects and expansion of the space.

We have had a valuable learning experience this past year. Many staff members have become involved in the process of starting our garden. We have attended the Collier Greens classes and have learned a lot about gardening. Our students are really enjoying the garden and have had experiences that they would not have had otherwise.

Contact:

Jaclyn Fitzgerald, 2nd Grade Teacher, fitzgj@collierschools.com

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Calusa Park Elementary

4600 Santa Barbara Blvd.
Naples, FL 34104

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- K-5th grades
- 836 students

Garden Profile:

- Started in 2007
- K-5th graders participate in garden
- No staff paid to assist garden
- No volunteers

General Garden Information:

In 2007, our garden was initiated through a partnership with the Collier Fruit Growers Council. They funded, volunteered the labor, and provided the fruit trees and plants for the butterfly garden. They also funded a week of summer camp at Naples Botanical Garden.

Garden Site:

The fruit trees have been planted throughout the campus. There is one large butterfly garden with a banana ring within the interior of the school. Additionally, two large raised beds (5' x 2' dimensions) for edibles. One smaller butterfly and ornamental garden is located at the entrance of our campus.



Student Involvement & Education:

Different times throughout the school year a variety of classrooms participate in activities in the garden (planting, weeding, watering, harvesting, observations, etc.). Our afterschool program, Club Calusa, periodically participates in garden activities. We gave structured lessons in the garden, using Florida Harvest of the Month lessons currently and previously with the Collier Fruit Growers lessons.

Garden Product:

We harvest and, depending on the amount, we share with as many classrooms as possible.

Parent Engagement:

We had one active parent who volunteered his time to prune trees this year. This is an area of need for our school.

Goals:

A school garden is an innovative teaching tool and strategy that lets educators incorporate hands on activities in a diversity of interdisciplinary lessons. We want to enhance what we have to engage the students by providing a dynamic environment to observe, discover, experiment, nurture, and learn. Through the garden the students gains an understanding of ecosystems and appreciation for the fruits, nutrition, and knowledge of plant and animal cycles. At the same time they learn practical horticultural skills to last a lifetime.

The popularity of a school garden as an educational tool is a fantastic way to teach healthy eating behaviors and a way to incorporate and increase hands-on learning experiences. Gardens can support mental, emotional, and social development in children.

Contact:

Janice Rosenthal, Teacher, rosentja@collierschools.com

Stacy Hamburg, School Counselor, hambus@collierschools.com

Freddy Cabelleros, Plant Manager



Rhodora J. Donahue Academy

4955 Seton Way
Ave Maria, FL 34142

School Profile:

- Private
- K-12th grades
- 278 students

Garden Profile:

- First year for garden program
- 145 K-5th graders participate in garden
- 3 students are in new High School Garden Club
- Gardening is part of PE curriculum
- No additional volunteer support

General Garden Information:

This is our first year, and we began planting in August 2015.

Garden Site:

The overall garden is about 800 square feet, with 99% of it planted in edible plants. We have:

- Thirteen 4' x 8' raised beds, nine of which are currently planted
- Six 8' x 8' raised beds, 3 planted
- Six EarthBoxes, sitting on tarps in the unplanted raised beds.

Themed beds include a basil garden with five varieties, a 2nd grade tomato and pepper garden bed, a radish bed, cucumber bed, and honeynut squash bed. We also have a freestanding composting bin.



Student Involvement & Education:

The students in PE classes visit or work in the garden once a week. The High School Garden Club, started in March 2016, meets once a week after school, and occasionally on the weekends.

Structured lessons are used in the garden. The Collier County Extension agent has visited and planted seedlings with our students. We have used excerpts from the following curricula:

- *Junior Master Gardener Program*
- *Gardening for Nutrition*, by Florida Ag in the Classroom, Inc.
- *How to Grow a School Garden, A Complete Guide for Parents and Teachers*, by Bucklin-Sporer and Pringle

Garden Product:

The students taste produce during PE class; they take it home in plastic bags; salads have been made for the faculty; excess is put in the faculty lounge; baskets of produce are on display at events like Grandparents Day, Open House, etc.

Parent Engagement:

We send the students home with the vegetables that they have grown and encourage parents to enjoy eating with their children. Parents have donated time, soil, mulch, and fertilizer.

Goals:

1. Plant a Strawberry Patch for the 4th grade class (They read "Strawberry Girl" by Lois Lenski)
2. Teach students to identify local plants and learn the botanical name
3. Challenge students to identify every plant that is growing at school and in their own yard
4. Introduce some xeriscaping concepts
5. Beautify the school landscaping
6. Install durable benches
7. Provide creative, shady areas for students
8. Install a watering system
9. Teach and practice composting lunch waste

Our newly formed Garden Club will meet once a week, and is planning to have a basil fundraiser for Mother's Day.

Contact:

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Mark Jahnke, Headmaster, mark.jahnke@avemaria.edu



Grace Place for Children & Families

4300 21st Ave. SW
Naples, FL 34116

School Profile:

- 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- Serves 800 students from preschool to adults
- Has 12 sites
- Serves 144 K-5th graders at Grace Place campus

Garden Profile:

- 8 years in operation
- Over 100 garden participants over the year
- Gardening instructor is paid staff
- Community and high school volunteers assist with garden maintenance and instruction

General Garden Information:

Most of the garden curriculum is focused on Grades 2 through 5 this year. High School students support the garden efforts. Our pre-school Mom and Tot program also plants and maintains one bed per semester. Kindergarten has visited the garden. Many of the AP Leaders high school program students are interested in gardening and I have given them seeds, plants, and information along with the elementary students.

Garden Site:

There are 13 beds which are 4' x 12' (48 sq ft each or 324 sq ft total) and two smaller beds which are not rectangular. Approximately half of the garden footage is planted in edibles. All of the beds are slightly raised beds and were put in as an Eagle Scout project. We have a bricked area with seating around the perimeter (benches) and a roof to provide shade. Our current themed gardens include: salad garden, edible flower garden, two herb gardens, 2 butterfly gardens, "The Earth Laughs in Flowers" garden (thank you RW Emerson), veggie garden, international garden (still being planted). The International Garden will feature plants used around the world to promote good health and meet nutritional needs of families in third world countries.



Student Involvement & Education:

The gardening program is two days a week for two hours each day. Students rotate in on one of the days for approximately an hour each. I share the children with the music teacher who often teaches the students songs about plants and gardening. These have included such songs as "Dirt Made My Lunch," and "Roots, Stems, Leaves, Flowers, Fruits and Seeds," by the Banana Slug String Band.

I outlined a curriculum for our use and pulled materials from a variety of sources. All of our lessons are based on Florida Sunshine State Standards in language arts, math, science, and art. Areas of focus include gardening skills, interdependence, measurement and other math skills, environmental issues, health and nutrition, and communication.

Garden Product:

We have eaten some as a group in the garden. We have also sent home bags of produce with the kids for their families to use. Several of the staff have availed themselves of our garden produce as well.

Parent Engagement:

We have sent home seeds, soil, and containers with the children, as well as plants, and whatever edibles are growing in the garden. I would love to host a parent night with the kids showing the parents around and preparing a snack. This probably won't happen until next year.

Goals:

I would love for the kids to work in small teams to plan and plant "miniature gardens" with themes of their design. I would also like to put in a non-flowering bed with plants with spores and some nonvascular plants to study. I would love for the kids to work in teams, to build miniature trebuchets to model plants that "throw" their seeds. Lots of measurement potential and mini studies could be developed based on the results. A bromeliad display is also in the early planning stages.

I would also like to work more on good recipes for use by the students in the garden, with perhaps a favorites garden recipe book for the kids to put together and take home. We currently have access to electricity in the garden and have used a toaster oven and a blender. We also have access to an area off the kitchen.

Contact:

Georgia Stamp, Gardening Instructor, gasteracantha@aol.com

Dara Bear, Academy of Leaders Site Coordinator, dara@graceplacenaples.org



Gulfview Middle School

255 6th St. S.
Naples, FL 34102

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- 6th-8th grades
- 685 students

Garden Profile:

- First year for garden program
- 25 6th-8th students in garden program
- No staff paid to assist garden
- Two volunteers helped establish garden

General Garden Information:

This is the first year for the GVMS garden. Mrs. Corban, PTO Garden Coordinator, was instrumental in bringing together all the materials needed to start the gardens. Mr. Perez, the facilities manager at the school, assisted with setting up the boxes and irrigation.

Garden Site:

The garden is about 13.5 square feet – 6 EarthBoxes – and is entirely planted with edibles.



Student Involvement & Education:

Presently 25 students in grades 6-8 use the garden. Although there aren't structured lessons, students do research related to the garden topics on the internet.

Garden Product:

The students harvest and sample what they have grown in the classroom.

Parent Engagement:

The garden is just getting started but we plan to reach out to parents next year.

Goals:

Our goal is to expand the garden so that all Mrs. Thomas' [ESE] students could have their own personal EarthBox to tend. We would also like to add beds for plants that attract pollinators and other beds to be used to assist in teaching Life Science as well as other disciplines. We plan to consult the science staff to learn how they might like to utilize the garden.

The garden is in its infancy but already has proved to be of great value to the students. Mrs. Thomas states, "This project has been a great incentive and educational opportunity for our students. The students are learning about plants, plant growth, measuring and healthy living." The students are engaged with the plants and intrigued by the science behind the self-watering EarthBoxes. They enjoy being responsible for caring for the plants and ultimately enjoying the fruits of their labor.

Contact:

Carla Corban, PTO Garden Coordinator, corbanfl@comcast.net

Pamela Thomas, ESE Teacher, ThomasPa@collierschools.com



Immokalee Middle School

401 9th St.
Immokalee, FL 34142

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- 6th-8th grades
- 1454 students

Garden Profile:

- First year for garden program
- 60 6th-8th graders participate in garden program
- No staff paid to assist garden program
- 12 volunteers

General Garden Information:

Students in garden program visit weekly, during, and after school. Volunteers have been involved in building/set up of parts of the garden while other volunteers mentor students who maintain the garden.

Garden Site:

Garden is located in unused bike storage area and is about 324 square feet. The garden contains 30 containers planted with edible plants. When program is not in session, students help prepare the garden and Ms. Bale checks in to see if there is any maintenance needed. This summer we intend to plant cover crops and continue checking in.



Student Involvement & Education:

We have developed our own life science lessons for 7th grade teachers visiting the garden. Teachers of other students bring them to the garden for lessons. Most teachers who bring their students to the garden do so once a month.

Garden Product:

We use garden produce for taste tests and to make simple recipes.

Parent Engagement:

During afterschool events we have created a display and showcase our produce for parents. We plan on more parent interactions next year.

Goals:

Our goal for next year is to grow tomatoes for Taste of Immokalee salsa. This year we were awarded a school garden grant from the Whole Foods Whole Kids Foundation. We have also expanded gardening efforts beyond edible plants to include an “orchid forest” – Ritz-Carlton employees recently installed 25 orchids with students in the trees next to the garden and in other locations on school grounds.

Contact:

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Lake Trafford Elementary

3500 Lake Trafford Rd.
Immokalee, FL 34142

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- Pre-Kindergarten-5th grades
- 731 students

Garden Profile:

- 1 ½ years with current garden
- 20 students regularly use garden
- Almost all grade levels have visited garden
- No staff paid to assist garden
- No volunteers

General Garden Information:

From our understanding, Lake Trafford has had many different garden projects and themes throughout its years. Currently, we have been operating a combined sensory and vegetable garden for about a year and a half now. Before hearing about this grant, I have been in constant communication with our school personnel about relocating the garden and expanding the garden, ultimately building an area where students, teachers, and classes can immerse themselves with as few distractions as possible. We are in the process of clearing land, adding to, relocating the current garden, and harvesting the already growing crops, in hopes of either maintaining throughout the summer, or kicking off next school year. In the new location, it was requested to be almost four times as large with additional room to grow. The garden team would like to expand the diversity of the plants (orchid garden, herb garden) and systems that take place in the garden (e.g. water collection system, outdoor compost (currently an indoor right now), weather systems).

Garden Site:

The current garden is 264 sq. ft. (a lot of space is used for walkways). The new garden is projected to have a space three times as large and to be designed to incorporate much more plant growth.

We have an area of 12' x 22' with four 2' x 9' raised beds. We are in the process of gaining 15 containers (both cylinder and rectangular). We would also like to try different modes of growing (vertical growing, shaded vs. non shaded, planting in ground rows).



Student Involvement & Education:

Throughout the year, at least one class for almost all grade levels has participated in the garden, or referenced it for a particular part of their curriculum (mostly science). All students see the garden on a daily basis, but do not actively participate (looking at it in transitions). The students that actively participate in the garden are in a daily and weekly program. Certain classroom jobs are assigned (watering, weeding, crop quality control). With the new garden, we are hoping to expand the garden team to have an active instructor from each grade level and have all grades and students participate in the garden at the very least monthly.

With the new garden we have a confirmation to incorporate an afterschool gardening program tied in with one of our already existing afterschool programs Miracle and the Seven Habits. The program will be two days a week after school.

For structured lessons, we use parts of the Naples Botanical Garden curriculum provided through Collier Greens, *Gardening for Nutrition* (Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.), and self-made lessons (science, and math, reading and writing).

Garden Product:

We try our produce raw. We test different ways of preparing the produce to eat (different ways the vegetables could be cut, skin on/ skin off). The future plan is to incorporate the cooking area into the new garden and have students compare raw vs. cooked.

Parent Engagement:

At the moment we do not engage parents; however, with the larger area and relocation to the front of the school, where it will be visual from the entrance, we plan to begin engaging parents. We have a lot of parents who would be interested in taking part of a larger school-wide garden. In the year to follow with both our Parent University and PTO committee we plan to have volunteers.

Goals:

Here at Lake Trafford Elementary we are committed to the expansion and diversity of our garden not just through relocation and size, but expansion and diversity in all grade levels and school and community personnel. With the help of this grant we hope to create a garden atmosphere in which individuals, classes, and community can immerse themselves with both experiences and knowledge.

With the increasing collaboration of both the Florida Department of Agriculture and the Florida Department of Education, Lake Trafford believes that legislation is only going to further push for the benefits of having a school-wide garden. We hope to not only put Lake Trafford Elementary garden on the map, but to also be an exemplar school for both the Immokalee schools and Collier County community.

Contact:

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Jack West, Science Coach, westja@collierschools.com



Manatee Elementary

1880 Manatee Rd.
Naples, FL 34114

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- Pre-Kindergarten-5th grades
- 827 students

Garden Profile:

- First year for garden program
- 4th grade students participate after school
- All grades are involved in some capacity
- Volunteer base includes a dozen adults consisting of faculty, staff, parents, and community members

General Garden Information:

2016 is the inaugural year for our “Let’s GrOw” school garden; constructing raised beds from recycled bookshelves and retired playground equipment, we planted our first seeds in January.

Garden Site:

The overall fenced-in layout of our school garden exceeds 1,000 square feet. About 99% of our school garden is planted with edible plants. Currently, we have 17 raised beds and ten container garden beds, nine of which are constructed from repurposed wooden bookcases and book shelves. The balance of our raised beds is constructed from repurposed playground equipment, recycled shipping pallets and lumber. A recently renovated Marco Island property of an international hotelier generously donated numerous patio tables and chairs for use in outdoor teaching space. We’ve placed several of these under existing canopy and awning spaces for shaded outside teaching spaces.



Student Involvement & Education:

Students formally participating in the initial phases of our garden program are at the fourth grade level. These fourth grade students participate in our garden program afterschool three days weekly: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Beyond our garden program-founding fourth graders, our school garden is engaging 100% of our PK-5th students. Daily, an aspect of our school garden is featured on our televised morning show. These cross-curricular segments provide students with purposeful opportunities to engage in real world, beyond the box critical thinking/ problem solving/ solution-minded experiences. Daily, our garden is open to and frequented by all PK-5th classes for integrated instruction. Additionally, from the outside/in, all students collect observational data as they pass their school garden multiple times daily.

Sources for our structured garden lessons include:

- *Gardening for Grades*, Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.
- *Gardening for Nutrition*, Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.
- Junior Master Gardener 4-H Development Program, Texas A & M

Garden Product:

All of our produce from our school garden is shared with and consumed by students, their families, and school staff.

Parent Engagement:

Our School Advisory Council and Parent Teacher Organization have been extremely instrumental in engaging families and parents with our garden program.

Goals:

For the future of our “Let’s GrOw” school garden I want to see expanded student, familial, and community involvement rooted with the 4-H motto of together we’re “Making the Best Better.” Knowing that “intelligence is a function of experience,” the goals of our garden program are to provide experiential, hands-on experiences directly connected to ecology, environment, life skills and career exploration. It is an opportunity to practice being responsible, respectful and resourceful.

After receiving pictures of students working in our new school garden, one of our teachers recently responded, “Some of these kids have never had anything to be proud of before this garden. It is growing so much more than vegetables in my eyes.” With the exception of cabbage, all of our plants were started from seed, most in two of our hydroponic beds.

Contact:

Susan Pratt, Media Specialist, prattsu@collierschools.com

Paul Curry, Plant Operator, curryw@collierschools.com



Manatee Middle School

1920 Manatee Rd.
Naples, FL 34114

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- 6th-8th grades
- 918 students

Garden Profile:

- 2 years in operation
- 15 6th-8th graders in garden program
- Two paid garden instructors
- Two volunteers helped build raised bed garden

General Garden Information:

Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades participate in garden program weekly on Fridays after school.

Garden Site:

The overall garden is about 77 square feet and is planted in all edible plants. We have one raised bed garden and eight container gardens that are dedicated to herbs and other vegetables. Beds are constructed of cinder block with cedar rail on top. Picnic tables are located near the garden for outdoor teaching space.



Student Involvement & Education:

In addition to students in garden program, our Hurricane Academy afterschool program had a gardening class that met after school first semester on Tuesdays and Thursdays with an average attendance of 15 students.

Garden program curriculum comes from *Junior Master Gardener* with 4-H.

Garden Product:

The produce is sampled during programming and produce is sent home with students.

Parent Engagement:

Parents do not participate in the garden at this time.

Goals:

We would like to see the garden grow and to involve more students including all 7th graders with their life science curriculum. We want the garden to also be available for individual science fair projects.

We see the garden now as at stage one. We are hoping to get Collier Greens recognition to help us in writing grant proposals and pursuing grants. We would like to add new raised beds in a paver design with drip irrigation. We would also like to encircle the garden with an edible hedge. We want to utilize a rain barrel and compost barrel next year and continue to maintain the garden as an organic garden.

Contact:

Stephen Jensen, Teacher, jensenst@collierschools.com

Emily Allen, Teacher, gradye@collierschools.com



Marco Island Academy

2255 San Marco Blvd.
Marco Island, FL 34145

School Profile:

- Public Charter School
- 9th-12th grades
- 232 students

Garden Profile:

- Garden established January 2015
- Six high school students participate each semester
- Volunteer Organic Gardening teacher
- Environmental Science teacher also assists garden

General Garden Information:

Marco Island Academy's school garden is an afternoon organic gardening class for high school students.

Garden Site:

Garden is about 300 square feet, with 95% planted in edible plants. The garden consists of four wood raised beds – each about 12.5' by 6' – along with a shaded area for outdoor teaching. Themed beds include a tomato bed, salad bed, succulent and pineapple bed, and an herb/veggie/fruit bed. Two fruit trees are on the property – a Meyer lemon tree and a carambola.



Student Involvement & Education:

Each semester, six students participate in a Friday afternoon organic gardening class. However, all students are encouraged to harvest the produce; rotating groups do necessary maintenance. Students also volunteer to satisfy required Community Service hours.

This Garden class is student-directed. The purpose is to promote: responsibility in the care of the Garden; creativity in the design of the Garden beds; flexibility with the whims of Nature; openness to, at a minimum, tasting new foods; and cooking skills.

Garden Product:

The class tastes/eats all produce together in the Garden after harvesting. Excess is given to Teachers and Faculty; students often bring produce home. Several times a semester we use a kitchen off-campus to “cook” – kohlrabi salad; pesto; salsa; nopales.

Parent Engagement:

Parents are engaged through garden tours; students taking home produce; and dinner conversations. Parents also get involved in growing cuttings/seedlings before they are planted in the garden.

Goals:

One goal is to continue to introduce new plants for the students to eat/cook with, focusing on organic and healthy eating. Another goal of ours is to have a Garden Fund for future expenses, rather than rely solely on one donor.

Contact:

Maureen McFarland, Volunteer Organic Gardening Teacher, mmmcf17@gmail.com

Jerry Miller, Environmental Science Teacher, mrmillermia@gmail.com



Mike Davis Elementary

3215 Magnolia Pond Dr.
Naples, FL 34116

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- K-5th grades
- 737 students

Garden Profile:

- 5 years in operation
- Whole school participates in garden
- No staff paid to assist garden
- Volunteers helped build and develop gardens

General Garden Information:

K-5th graders participate in garden program. Typically, I use the garden as a weekly program and select a few students to continue the garden program throughout the year.

Garden Site:

Garden is about 30 square feet and consists of five raised beds built around specific plots in the school ground. We have two green houses for the gardens that are being built around the garden and inside we will have two rain harvesting systems. When school is not in session, black tarp is placed over the garden to kill off bacteria and other contaminants and then removed when session starts.



Student Involvement & Education:

Structured lessons come from American Heart Association Teaching Gardens curriculum.

Garden Product:

We have the produce placed in the students' snacks at certain times of the year.

Parent Engagement:

We have a science night two times a year and let the parents come and pick from the garden. We also have a Twitter page dedicated to sharing the innovation that we have achieved in the garden.

Goals:

I want to have more raised beds across the back of the school and two full-sized greenhouses to continue growth for the students. I want the students to be able to 100% autonomously manage and grow their gardens when we have finished.

Contact:

Adam Winkle, Science Coach, winkla@collierschools.com

Melanie Fike, Principal, fikeme@collierschools.com



Palmetto Elementary

3000 10th Ave. SE
Naples, FL 34117

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- K-5th grade
- 501 students

Garden Profile:

- First year garden
- 15 parents and all students at school participate
- No staff paid to assist garden
- All volunteer help

General Garden Information:

Our garden program began this school year. It is wonderful and all stakeholders are enjoying it. My initial goal for the garden is to educate parents by implementing monthly after school lessons on edible gardens and how they can implement their own garden in their yards. This has expanded to classroom teachers using the garden for weekly lessons.

Garden Site:

We have four 3' x 5' raised garden beds built out of TREX along with two EarthBoxes. All of the garden is planted with edible plants, including one fruit bed and three vegetable beds. The EarthBoxes hold the herbs. The garden also features outdoor teaching space so that students and parents have the ability to sit around the garden.



Student Involvement & Education:

K-5th grade students are involved weekly with classroom teacher; parent education program is monthly after school. Structured lessons in the garden cover all curricula: math, science, language arts, history, etc.

Garden Product:

Classrooms are allowed to pick and cook produce; produce is also used in parents' afterschool program. When our items are mature our parents take them home and utilize these items in their meals which they learn from our classes.

Parent Engagement:

We have implemented an afterschool edible garden program for our parents.

Goals:

Our future goal is for all stakeholders to be involved and keep building on our garden. There is always something to learn from our garden.

We use our garden for several purposes. The most exciting aspect of our garden is the tasting that our parents and students experience and enjoy.

Contact:

Lynn Morgan, Garden Organizer, Morganly@collierschools.com

Sharon Wheeler, Assistant Principal, Wheelesh@collierschools.com



Parkside Elementary

5322 Texas Ave.
Naples, FL 34113

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- K-5th grades
- 769 students

Garden Profile:

- 3 years in operation
- 70 4th-5th graders in garden program
- Teacher is paid for afterschool academy, but not for out-of-session garden care
- No volunteers

General Garden Information:

All of our grade levels use the garden in some capacity. We incorporate our garden into the science and math curriculum as often as we can so students can experience what it feels like to grow and eat something. We also have a school-wide news program and we promote our garden there, too, so all students can see what is growing. There are also special times during the year where we will have samplings, where students will pick, wash, and prepare items for the garden for all the students to taste. We do this in the morning so all students have an opportunity to sample our garden's offerings. We also just purchased seven EarthBoxes for our Kindergarten classes to grow the different parts of plants that we eat so they are able to see where our food comes from and how easy it can be to grow it.

Garden Site:

The garden is about 800 square feet and includes prefabricated raised beds and containers. We have an herb-themed bed, a pepper patch, some citrus trees, and a kumquat tree.



Naples
Botanical
Garden

Student Involvement & Education:

Seventy 4th and 5th graders participate in an afterschool garden program two days a week. We write our own structured lessons for this program.

Garden Product:

We have the kids prepare garden produce and eat it. Leftovers get bagged up and taken home. We have also had the culinary students from Lorenzo Walker Technical High School come to our school and prepare a dish using items from our garden while talking about their experiences with cooking and careers they are preparing for.

Parent Engagement:

We have a STEM Night where our Academy students give the parents a tour of the garden and we usually have something for the parents to taste. This is always a big hit! We do struggle to get parents involved in the garden, but one of our goals is to increase parent involvement.

Goals:

The goal we have for our garden is to increase the amount of time students spend in the garden. We would love to have all classrooms or grade-levels be responsible for a bed and have our garden be something that ALL the students are proud of. Having more parent and staff volunteers would be wonderful as well as growing enough items to have a fresh salad bar for the students at lunch time.

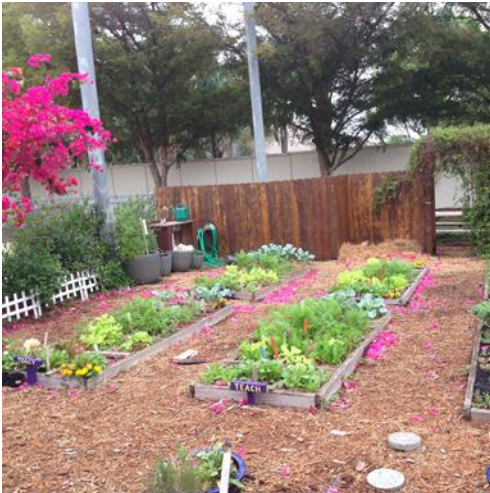
We also envision an outdoor culinary center attached to the garden. This would be a place where students would be able to see the importance of math and how it is used in the kitchen. These hands-on experiences will give our students who struggle with vocabulary a concrete example of the concept and help them make a connection with what it means.

Our garden is three years old – really only two because we moved it last year to a more central location. We did this so it would be more visible and become more of a part of our school so students and teachers would use it more, which has happened. We are all learning through the education Collier Greens offers, local experts, trial and error, and a lot of research, but there is so much to having a successful school garden. I believe our school is on the right track to making our garden great, and we strive to make it a place that helps impact student learning and how we all think about food and the environment.

Contact:

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Jill Rexford, Assistant Principal, rexfoj@collierschools.com



Pelican Marsh Elementary

9480 Airport Rd. N.
Naples, FL 34109

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- K-5th grades
- 780 students

Garden Profile:

- 7 years in operation
- 300 students in garden program annually
- Two teacher liaisons receive stipend to assist
- 35-40 volunteer parents teach garden lessons

General Garden Information:

We view our garden as an extension of the classroom. For many children, it is the most exciting lesson of the week. We believe that using the hands-on experience they have in the garden, the children are better able to absorb the facts they are learning in the classroom. We attempt to bring across sound ecological principles through our lessons and teach children about healthy eating. We show them how to create their own sustainable gardens, create their own compost, and how to properly maintain a garden. We teach them that food production is not something that we can take for granted and that we should be good stewards of the earth's resources, and that not everyone in the world has enough food. Each child receives a journal containing a copy of the garden rules and a number of interactive activities that they complete during the course of their lessons.

Garden Site:

Garden is about 2600 square feet with 80% planted in edibles. Garden includes ten raised beds – wooden boxes that stand about a foot above the ground and are filled with organic soil. Garden also has two picnic tables with benches, one of which is accessible for people with disabilities.



Naples
Botanical
Garden

Student Involvement & Education:

Each 2nd and 3rd grade class spends an hour in the garden once per week for one semester. The two grades interchange semesters so that each group has an opportunity to grow vegetables from seed to harvest. The additional grades use it more sporadically, as time allows. Kindergarten is using the garden in 2015-2016.

We have an adapted curriculum, taken from a California-based gardening syllabus and adjusted to include Sunshine State standards. Third graders have 12 lessons and the 2nd graders have 15. The curriculum covers multiple disciplines, touching on science through the examination of plant growth, shape, growing habits, and pollination, as well as insects that help and harm the garden. They also use Math in the garden, measuring temperature and plant height, as well as bed sizes. The children also write poems about the garden and learn about weather patterns and growing regions and how these affect plant growth.

Garden Product:

We harvest, prepare, and eat garden produce with students and donate the remainder.

Parent Engagement:

Parents are directly involved in the garden program since parent volunteers do the teaching and spend time in the garden with the children. In addition, every child receives a monthly newsletter to take home to parents, explaining what they have been doing in the garden. Parents are also invited to tour the garden with their parents at every major school event.

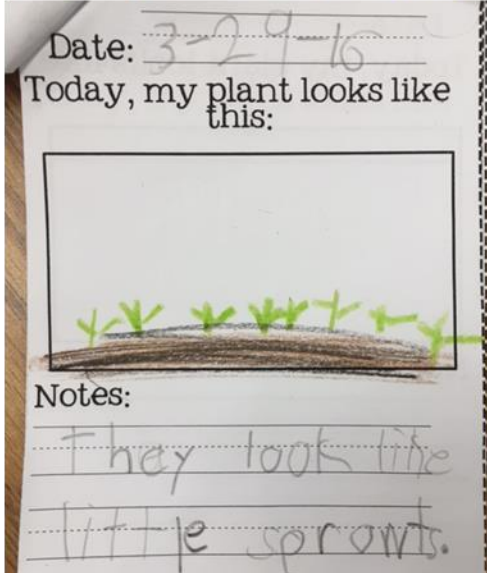
Goals:

Our goals are to continue with the second and third grade programs, expand volunteer support, continue to improve physical aspects of the garden, and perhaps expand use to additional grade levels.

Contact:

Samantha Saks, PTO Committee Chair: Garden Coordinator, samantha@saks.co.za

Ashley Martinez, PTO Chairperson, ashleypme@gmail.com



Poinciana Elementary

2825 Airport Rd. S.
Naples, FL 34105

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- K-5th grades
- 690 students

Garden Profile:

- 2 years in operation
- 50 Kindergarteners in garden program
- No staff paid to assist garden
- Parent volunteers assist physical garden

General Garden Information:

Fifty Kindergarten students are currently helping in our daily garden program.

Garden Site:

Garden is about 270 square feet, with 60% planted in edible plants. We have seven painted wood raised beds. This year we built a bench that allows the students to sit and observe the growth of their plants. It also creates a great place to relax and read while in tune with nature. We have one bed with butterfly weed and one bed with sunflowers. In Kindergarten we learn about the lifecycle of butterflies and why certain environments are necessary for their survival; this type of plant allows the students to see caterpillars and also release the butterflies that we have as a class. We have themed beds as well. One bed is sunflowers: the students planted seeds of their own to watch grow. They keep a journal and measure the growth of their own plant. We have one bed that is all edible plants. Lettuce, peppers, cucumbers, kale, squash, tomatoes, and carrots grow in this bed so that the kids can make salads and soups to eat. We have one bed that grows herbs. In this bed is basil, mint, parsley, and rosemary that we use to season certain foods. Another bed we have is pumpkins. We plant in the spring so that we have pumpkins for the following fall harvest. This year we are trying corn. We also have lemon trees and are trying strawberries this year.



Student Involvement & Education:

The Kindergarten students participate in the garden daily and some students after school that are part of our school Sports Club program. Other students use the garden for observation purposes in science.

We incorporate our garden into science, reading, writing, health, and the math curriculum. We have had lessons on planting, plant needs, and how they help people and animals. We read books about gardens, plants, how things grow and change. In health we talk about healthy eating and what foods are good for what parts of our body and how choosing the right foods will keep you healthy. In the math curriculum, we count how many seeds we plant and then how many actually sprout. We measure and record the growth of some plants and sometimes we are creative and use what we grow to write word problems. In reading and writing, we write expository text first-hand. The kids write about what they did first, next, then, and last. They are able to incorporate wonderful adjectives because they are part of the experience. We also use the garden for reading lessons to just be outside.

Garden Product:

We use garden produce to make soups, salads, and to just eat fresh.

Parent Engagement:

We encourage parents to come in and garden with the students. We also encourage parents to donate necessary materials. We send pictures in emails and in our weekly newsletters to inspire and encourage the parents to talk with their student and become excited with them.

Goals:

Our goals for the garden in the future would be to have more plants and beds so that other grade levels will be able to participate as well. We would like to have more fruit trees and more vegetables growing year-round. We want the students to be so excited about gardening that they want to try foods that they wouldn't normally try. We would like to expand the garden and incorporate an air-type garden where some plants will be hanging and growing.

We truly love creating an atmosphere where the children love to learn and appreciate everything that is natural around them. We love that children go home inspired to share it with their parents and want to grow food at their own home. Our garden has been a great opportunity for us to learn and teach. This is a passion for both of us and now our students are as passionate as well. Imagine looking outside at beautiful flowers, plants, and trees and then seeing children caring for them with smiles spread ear to ear. They come in on Monday morning and want their parents to bring them to school early because they need to check on "their" garden. It has become such a center of our learning environment that we hope to have the funds year-to-year to keep it a wonderful place to learn, grow, and inspire the next generation.

Contact:

Janell Matos, Teacher, matosj2@collierschools.com

Joanna Campanile, Teacher, campaj@collierschools.com



Preschool of the Arts

1789 Mandarin Rd.
Naples, FL 34102

School Profile:

- Private preschool
- Age 18 months-5 years
- 100 students

Garden Profile:

- 2 years in operation
- 70 PreK students in garden program
- One Garden Specialist receives monthly stipend
- No volunteers

General Garden Information:

PreKindergarten students meet in the garden weekly during school every Tuesday from August to May. The children love being outside. Each class has a planter for experimentation: with the younger children we spend a lot of time digging, planting seeds for practice, and watering. The older children are able to learn gardening concepts at a higher level and learn about things like germination, pollination, fruit vs. vegetable, plant structure, etc.

Garden Site:

The garden is about 200 square feet, with 90% planted in edible plants. The garden consists of four raised beds and a u-shaped bed, as well as bananas, a starfruit tree, and an avocado tree. Raised beds are constructed from recycled material – safe (Hayneedle) and pine (untreated) and concrete blocks (the u-shaped area). When the program is not in session in the summer, it is planted in sweet potatoes and checked on routinely by the Garden Specialist.



Student Involvement & Education:

Structured lessons are developed by garden specialist and some lessons are pulled from reputable websites. All students attend the program weekly and some also visit the garden afterschool with parents.

Garden Product:

Garden produce is harvested, prepared, and eaten with students or “sold” at school farm market.

Parent Engagement:

An e-newsletter is sent to parents each Friday which include gardening activities and photos.

Goals:

Our goals are to continue, expand, and enhance programs, expand volunteer support, continue to improve physical aspects of the garden.

Contact:

Bridget Washburn, Garden Specialist, thinkbluesolutions@gmail.com

Stephanie Little, Executive Assistant, npreschoolofthearts@gmail.com



Sea Gate Elementary

650 Sea Gate Drive.
Naples, FL 34103

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- K-5th grades
- 750 students

Garden Profile:

- 8 years in operation
- 440 students in garden program
- Teacher leads afterschool Organic Garden Club
- 8 volunteers

General Garden Information:

Kindergarten, First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Grades plus students in the MC3 (Modified Curriculum) classrooms participate in garden program. The other students in the school are encouraged to walk out to see the garden, observe, and share in the produce from the garden.

Sea Gate is working on being a Blue Zone school so we are focusing on healthy living which is encouraged through the garden. Most of our students have never seen vegetables grown; they just see them in the grocery store. Our school garden serves as a living laboratory. We grow healthier kids through better nutrition one bite at a time. As students grow different vegetables, they are more willing to try new foods.

Garden Site:

The garden is approximately 2,200 square feet, including veggie plant beds and citrus trees. All 15 raised beds grow edible plants. We have two beds specifically for herbs, one long bed that is used to “test” new seeds/plants to see if they will grow. We have a worm bed, also. Parents come over breaks to maintain the garden so it doesn’t get overgrown. In the summer, our garden is shut down in order to refurbish.



Student Involvement & Education:

The students take care of the garden weekly and if their calendar permits, they go out more than once a week. As part of the afterschool program, students in grades 2-5 may choose to participate in the Organic Garden Club. There are approximately 30 students participating now. They meet twice a week and are divided into two groups. Each of the groups spend 30 minutes in the garden doing a variety of tasks.

Lessons are tied to Math – area, perimeter, measuring, etc.; Science – roots, stems, plants, weather; Reading/Writing – compare/contrast plants, cause/effect as well as keeping a journal to record experiences. Health and Social Studies are integrated as well.

Garden Product:

The students harvest the produce and each student gets to take a small bag home. The classroom teacher also has the students try the produce in the classroom if not enough to take home. Students have had a garden salsa party, made a veggie salad, and enjoyed soups. Our staff members drink kale shakes in the morning. School garden opportunities are truly relevant to everyday life, and our students will never forget their hands-on experience.

Parent Engagement:

Parents are encouraged to participate in the garden project through the PTO monthly meetings and PTO newsletter plus Parent Link. Pictures are shared, also. We encourage the parents to visit the garden when on campus and have lunch in the garden with their students.

Eight volunteers have been directly involved in our garden. They have been involved with cleaning out the beds, preparing the beds for planting, assisting with planting, watering, weeding and harvesting. The volunteers also work with teachers to prepare the students for the garden visit of the week. The volunteers contacted community businesses to donate mulch, plants, and seeds for the Sea Gate garden.

Goals:

We have many goals for our garden. To start with, for all classes to be engaged in the garden to some extent. Stimulating more parent interest in becoming involved in our garden is something we are working towards, also. To do this, teachers are connecting healthy eating with the growing of your own produce, integrating science with hands-on experience in the garden, having concrete experiences in the garden to build background knowledge and understanding of where our food comes from prior to the store or farmer's market. We would like for our cafeteria to use the produce we grow in what is served to the students. Developing a more extensive safety plan while in the garden will be one of our tasks also.

Contact:

Melissa Rocchio, Parent Volunteer, mrockeyo@aol.com

Diane Santacrose, Assistant Principal, santacdi@collierschools.com



Seacrest Country Day School

7100 Davis Blvd.
Naples, FL 34104

School Profile:

- Private school
- PreK-12th grades
- 450 students

Garden Profile:

- 27 years in operation
- 300 students participate in garden program
- No staff paid to assist garden
- No volunteers

General Garden Information:

The garden consists of three gardens: an elementary school garden in which students participate monthly; a middle school garden with a weekly program; and a high school garden that is used daily. Students use garden spaces for Arts, Seminar, humanities, Math, Science, Language Arts, History. The gardens are teaching gardens – we go out as a class and everything is a lesson as we work. We go out with goals and discuss issues and concerns.

Garden Site:

Elementary Garden is 28' by 30' with 5 raised beds; Middle School is 30' x 30' with 5 beds for herbs and flowers; the high school garden is 30' x 30' with 5 raised beds and a section planted in the ground. Each garden has between 4-6 large clay planters. We have an in-ground student-built butterfly garden about that is about 12' x 12' and a 12' x 12' student-built rain garden about. We also have a student-built floating island. We close the garden during the summer and students care for it during vacations.



Student Involvement & Education:

Elementary Garden: this garden is composed of raised beds – one for each grade level. The preschool has 3 grow boxes on loan from Collier Greens. They do the entire cycle from opening the garden to closing the garden in the spring. Middle School Gardens: The Middle School garden is a perennial flower and herb garden with 5 beds in the ground and paved with brick. They have a club that cares for the garden and the planters. The Middle School 8th grade built the floating island and helped design the rain garden. They do the upkeep once a year. The AP Environmental Class does these gardens as well. The Butterfly Garden was an independent study project in entomology and is kept up by students. We have an organic garden group in Middle School and one in High School. High School Garden: The High School Garden is a part of the Sustainability Course (new for the first time this year) for grades 9-12 and used by the Green Team—a new environmental organization started by a student. Other students who want to garden join the Organic Gardening Committee and work after school and weekends. This year the Sustainability Class started a high school Vermicomposting and Recycling Program to reduce the amount of solid waste that leaves our campus. We also compost our weeding and waste from harvesting in barrels and grow sweet potatoes in the barrels over the summer. We completed the edible hedge this year around three sides. Students have been working on signs and want to design and add a vertical garden section.

I write the curriculum and have student input. It changes with the seasons and the tasks at hand and blends with our text and course goals and objectives. The AP Environmental students apply all of their curriculum to our gardens.

Garden Product:

So far, we have given it away to the gardening students, fed it to the faculty and student body, and given it away to parents with donations accepted.

Parent Engagement:

Elementary parents offer to help out at different times of the year for opening and closing. They donate seeds and plants sometimes. Middle School and High School do not have parent involvement.

Goals:

We want to be able to make them more sustainable and expand them with vertical gardening. We have also discussed hydroponics as a project for 2016-17. We would like to expand the garden in the space that we have, just like issues in overdeveloped countries and cities.

Our gardens have been a grassroots effort instigated by the students over the years. The type and size tend to grow as they do in their commitment to a more sustainable world. This year the course focus was on food and global food security. The students come up through the system with a growing knowledge and love of gardening. We also focus on the cycling of matter in our gardens and have also thought of completing the cycle by adding laying hens. There is so much more we can do to raise awareness of sustainable practices and tools for the future.

Contact:

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