



Big Cypress Elementary

3250 Golden Gate Blvd. W.
Naples, FL 34120

School Profile:

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

Garden Profile:

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

General Garden Information:

Our garden features about 160 square feet of planting space, including eight raised beds built from composite lumber and eight EarthBoxes. About 100% of the garden is planted in edible plants. The garden also features outdoor teaching space and native habitats. The entire student body is engaged with the garden in some way.

We use cover crops during the summer when staff and students are not here to tend to the garden.



Student Involvement & Education:

Our school counselor uses the garden as an incentive for some of our “high needs” students. This occurs on a weekly basis. Our gardens are also featured during school tours and school-wide family events. We follow Collier County School District Science Curriculum in the garden.

Garden Product:

Teachers and students harvest the produce. Students are allowed to sample what has been harvested. Staff members are allowed to take the remainder home for consumption. Our harvest has increased tremendously this year – as opposed to our first year.

Parent & Community Engagement:

We have a strong commitment to our garden from our school administration, staff, and PTA. Our students are very proud of their garden! Whenever we have visitors to our school, we always make sure to highlight each of our garden areas. When parents visit, their children proudly “show off” our garden.

Goals:

We would like to add more raised beds and add two picnic tables to use as workspace for the students. We would like to add permanent signage to our garden.

Additional Notes:

We used part of last year’s Recognition award to replenish the soil in each bed. We purchased some seeds and we also used the award to purchase a drip-line watering system.

This year we also received two grants from Kohl’s Associates in Action for \$500 and \$1500.

Contact:

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