



### Golden Gate High School

2925 Titan Way  
Naples, FL 34116

#### School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades
- 1,777 students

#### Garden Profile:

- First year for garden program
- 10-15 high school students participate in garden
- One paid staff member supervises the afterschool program
- One Grace Place volunteer assists with garden

#### General Garden Information:

This is the first year for the garden and it was started with two EarthBoxes in February – a pizza garden box and a salsa garden box. We also have three small pots in the garden.

The garden features a sign with the garden name, along with outdoor teaching space. An open area with auditorium steps is nearby. Students usually sit in the grass or on the pavement as the garden is discussed.

Students visit the garden twice a week. They are working to generate interest and extend the garden for classroom use at Golden Gate High School during the academic school day.



**Student Involvement & Education:**

Students in our program participate in weekly STEAM activities both in the classroom and outside in the garden. The students not only integrate research skills to better improve their garden, but also incorporate writing to record, artistic skills for signage, math skills with measuring, and engineering skills when designing the garden layouts and new tools/systems to maintain the garden. We follow Florida standards and National STEAM Standards.

**Garden Product:**

The students monitor and record plant growth and observations in a log that is updated weekly. The students will harvest the plants and eat them with the goal of making either a vegetable pizza or a salsa out of the produce. The produce is used for education and taste tests, cooking, and possibly donations to either a local food bank or the school's cafeteria.

**Parent Engagement:**

Students got to take home their own plant/vegetable to grow at home. Parents will get to taste the results once the vegetables are harvested.

**Goals:**

The program would like to expand the garden from EarthBoxes to raised beds and pull in interest from other teachers and classes to utilize the garden. The students are eager to get a larger space for planting and more flexibility to grow their vegetables and experiment with new plants. The students have also expressed interest in field trips to expand their knowledge of planting/farming/botany. The students are working towards a garden where they can make enough salsa, pizza, and edible dishes to donate and bring in community interest.

**Additional Notes:**

The students have been excited since the first day of planning the garden. Each success and failure has been celebrated and the students have been very creative in the making of signs, tools, and planning for the garden.

Interest has been generated among other teachers at the school and programs throughout Grace Place. The principal has expressed an interest in possible expansion and incorporation into the academic school day with STEAM-related curriculum classrooms.

The garden was also awarded a \$25 grant from Champions for Learning this year.

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