



Gulfview Middle School

255 6th St. S.
Naples, FL 34102

School Profile:

- Collier County Public Schools
- 6th – 8th grades
- 644 students

Garden Profile:

- Second year for garden program
- 30 6th – 8th graders participate in garden
- No staff paid specifically to assist garden
- A volunteer PTO Garden Coordinator works with vendors to procure garden supplies

General Garden Information:

The garden has been a wonderful resource for students in the Emotional and Behavioral Disorder (EBD) program at Gulfview Middle School. It is used to teach the students about how to grow and care for plants, but it also plays a therapeutic role. Working in the garden is a privilege that reinforces positive behaviors. The students constructed the beds themselves and filled them with the compost, giving them a sense of ownership and pride in their work. The garden is also a place to regain calm and composure if a student is experiencing distress.

The garden is planted entirely with edible plants and contains three 12' x 3' beds and six EarthBoxes. The raised beds are constructed with cedar boards that sit on top of commercial quality landscape cloth. The beds are filled with organic compost and are surrounded by 3" of mulch. There is shaded instructional space in the garden.



Student Involvement & Education:

Students visit the garden a few times a week. Pamela Thomas, the EBD teacher, and Mr. Perez, the facilities manager, both assist with the garden during their work day. Educational materials attained at the Summer 2016 Florida Department of Agriculture School Garden Workshop are used as reference materials.

Garden Product:

The produce is shared amongst the students and occasionally is sent home to share with their family members.

Parent Engagement:

Parents are updated on the progress of the garden and students take vegetables home to share with family members.

Goals:

We hope to continue to expand the garden by building additional beds and have more teachers, students, and parent volunteers able to use the garden for various learning opportunities – “The Outdoor Classroom.”

Additional notes:

Last year’s Recognition award funds were used to purchase cedar, landscape cloth, mulch, soil, compost, tomato cages, organic insecticide and fungicide, and plant stakes. Additionally, Mrs. Thomas was given a prepaid \$100 gift card and an account was set up at Ace Hardware for the purchase of any other garden needs. All funds are administered by the PTO.

One of the science teachers is interested in becoming involved with the garden next year. The garden also played a significant role in the school attaining Blue Zones certification.

The garden was given \$300 from money raised during the Blue Zones Project last year. We also received a \$2,000 grant from the Whole Kids Foundation in March.

Contact:

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