A Magnet School Perspective on School Yard Gardens

Denise Schnabel
Curriculum Integrator
denise.schnabel@anoka.k12.mn.us
www.anoka.k12.mn.us/cbpames
Overview

Integration
All students in grades K-5 have the opportunity to start from seed, grow, transplant and maintain a garden tied to curriculum each year.

Funding
Our consistent source of funding for our program is desegregation dollars from the state as part of the magnet school, we also rely on donations from local greenhouses, grants from local foundations, and plant sale proceeds.

Partners
Hennepin County Master gardeners, Champlin Garden Club, Champlin Park High School Horticulture and Landscaping, Volunteer families, Adventures Plus- before and afterschool care

Unique Staff Development
We utilize the MN Landscape Arboretum as not only a building block for our students to set a common foundation and experience for them to expand, but also as a hands-on, on the job training for our teaching staff. With the expertise of the staff at the Arboretum and the Staff working with the Plantmobile we are able to provide opportunities for almost all of our grade levels each year so all staff- new or not are trained and feel confident in the garden and greenhouse.
Standards based

- **Grade K**- Living things are diverse with many different observable characteristics.
- **Grade 1**- Health- Food plate
- **Grade 2**- Living things are diverse with many different observable characteristics. Plants and animals undergo a series of orderly changes during their life cycles.
- **Grade 3**- Living things are diverse with many different characteristics that enable them to grow, reproduce and survive.
- **Grade 4**- Social Studies-Regions of the United States
- **Grade 5**- Natural systems have many components that interact to maintain the living system. Humans change environments in ways that can be either beneficial or harmful to themselves and other organisms.
Grade K

Observable Characteristics:

**Sensory Garden**
Plants with different scents, textures, colors, tastes, sounds

**Staff Support**
Parent, grandparent volunteers, Champlin Garden Club volunteers, Champlin Park High School Classes
Grade 1

Making Healthy Food Choices

Food Plate Garden
Fruits, vegetables, grains, proteins, no dairy, but what the dairy producers eat
We use plants with the shortest growing season to ensure students will see the growth

Staff Support
Three Rivers Park District experience with seeds, Plantmobile: Sunflower Supreme, Arboretum: Plant Take apart CPHS classes, parent volunteers
Grade 2

**Staff Support**
Arboretum: Pumpkin’s Life, Plantmobile: Zoom in on Plants, Anoka Tech Horticulture class, volunteers, CPHS classes

**Observable plant characteristics - plant parts, life cycle**

**Butterfly Garden**
Identify plant parts on flowers, start from seed, in the fall collect the seed from the forbes. Also provides a habitat for grade 1-Journey North Monarch Migration
Grade 3

*Staff Support*

Plantmobile: Falls Ablaze, Arboretum: MN Harvest, Three Rivers: Prairie Restoration

---

*Growth, Reproduction, Survival*

**Prairie Greeting Garden**

Focus on native plants to tie in to Social Studies, look at survival in winter, fire, and soil types, learn about types of seeds and how they disperse.
Grade 4

Regions of the United States, Earth Materials and Water

Regional Gardens
Plants that represent the four regions of the United States, study zones, soils, water quality, through the Junior Master Gardener program. Finish 5 Chapters in grade 4 with the help of the Hennepin County Master Gardeners.

Staff Support
Hennepin County Master Gardeners, Three Rivers Park Experiences, Junior Master Gardener Program
Grade 5

Natural Systems and Human Interaction

**JMG Garden and Hanging Baskets**
Students complete final chapters of JMG curriculum to earn certification. Focus on natural systems within the garden and human interaction-insect interventions. Design and grow hanging baskets for a plant sale.

**Staff Support**
Hennepin County Master Gardeners, Junior Master Gardener Program, Volunteers