Worms in Schools

A story told in the first person
by Kirsten Saylor
But first, a little about worms...
Worms

- Easy to care for
- Messy as you like
- Don’t smell …unless
- “Satellite” Garden
- very responsive
Why Worms?

Ick-factor

Science —> Hands-on
Habitat, Ecological
Systems, Closing the
Loop

Builds Responsibility

Nutrition Analogy

Community Connection
What kind of worms are we using?

Why are we composting with worms?

Do worms go in the garden?

How do I harvest castings?

How much can I harvest?
Why Worm Bins

Flexible, Adaptable

- Able to lift, Small space
- When things go bad

Doable

- Materials: durable, no special skills
- Modeling a system that can work for families
What Worms need

Feed them 1-2 times a week

- Fresh produce only (NO oils, citrus, meat/dairy)
- Bury food under the bedding

Aerate bin regularly (Fluffing and “nosing”)

Stay out of direct heat and sunlight

Keep bedding moist, but not wet (squeeze test)
Howe School
Grades 3-5
1) How we got started

Attended School Garden 101

Loved idea of worm bins

- warm-up for garden
- winter activity
2) Let’s do it!

Specialist put together curriculum for Worms 10.

Specialist coordinated with classroom teachers for an hour of worm discovery.

Parent got worms and led bin-building “lab.”

Brought in bedding material together.
Worm bins!

Permission to use power tool (electric drill)

Already had photo permission for most students

Wish we had…

• Assigned a photographer
• Figured out to share story
4) Caring for the Worms

Worms kept in science room

At lunch students collected worm food

Two students per classroom (4): one trains the other

Adult-guided by Specialist