

GARDENING PROJECT


GOESSEL USD 411

GARDENING PROJECT

- Goessel began their gardening project in the fall of 2011
- We began small, with each grade level getting a plot large enough to plant just one or two varieties of items.
- Each class decided on what they would focus on.



INTEGRATING GARDENING CURRICULUM

- We worked to integrate our gardening curriculum with other curricular areas.
 - We selected Health and Nutrition standards.
 - We selected Science standards to integrate with gardening.
 - Our gardening program also involves character education focusing on: teamwork, effort, working toward a long range goal, caring for our world.
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GARDEN EXPANSION

In 2012 we expanded our garden. It now measures approx. 60' X 120'. We grow tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, cantaloupe, squash, peas, zucchini, broccoli, carrots, sweet potatoes and honey dew melons. In addition, we have planted a small orchard with apple tree, peach trees, and pear trees.



PROCESSING THE FOOD

We have a very supportive staff in the kitchen who are very willing to help process our garden produce. That is a key ingredient to successful garden project.



TEAMWORK BRINGS IN THE HARVEST!

One week this fall we harvested 83 pounds of cantaloupe. Enough to feed both cafeterias, K-12, 279 student plus staff for one week!!!



VARIETY ADDS SPICE!

Our gardening coordinator showed students how to dry apples and used dried apples for a wholesome classroom snack.



WORKING TOGETHER BUILDS TEAMWORK

At the start, some students struggle to put forth the effort. But as time goes on and they see plants growing and realize the plants are depending on them, they take ownership. Bringing in the harvest together is fun!



GETTING DOWN AND DIRTY IS HEALTY!

What little kid doesn't like digging in the dirt to find treasures! Especially if you can eat those treasures! This little guy is all smiles about his 'find'!



COME AND VISIT

Future plans include parent volunteers helping to convert the garden into raised beds. For now we are cleaning up and putting the garden 'to bed' for the winter, as our students say!



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information,
contact John Fast, supt.
/ elementary principal,
Goessel, USD 411
620-367-8118
fastj@usd411.org

Gardening coordinator is
Pam Abrahams. The
garden is also supported
by a cadre of parents
who help to weed and
water in the summer.
Summer harvest is
donated to the local food
pantry when school is
not in session.