

## Community Vineyard at USD 495 Ft. Larned

Ft. Larned. USD 495 in collaboration with Larned Pride is seeking to extend the success of the Larned Community Garden by creating a Community Vineyard. Expanding the current orchard and melon patch will provide a longer growing season for fruit. With some fruit being picked in November and apples with a shelf life of 9 months, the eventual goal is to provide fruit for Fridays year around. Both entities are excited at this partnership. "Working with Larned Pride on this project is a great opportunity for the students to help plant and harvest vegetables and fruit. The addition of a vineyard to the Community Garden, Melon Patch and Orchard will provide for a greater variety of fruit," states Jennifer Anderson, Curriculum Director for USD 495. This year, the collaboration focused on creating Pumpkin Hollow, a 2 acre melon patch of watermelon, cantaloupe, honeydew, and pumpkins. Melons will be given to the schools for "Fruity Fridays". Students will also take field trips to the patch - learning about the environment and picking their own pumpkin. Additional melons will be given to the nursing homes and local senior center. Extra melons sold will sustain the experience for future years.

