

School Garden at West Junior High

USD 497 Lawrence. 2010 marked the beginning of a pilot project with the first School Garden at West Junior High. In its first season, the West Garden

- Produced over 1,100 pounds of produce. 300 pounds were taken directly into the cafeteria for the students to enjoy on their lunch plates.
- 6 West students were employed by The Merc Co-op to tend the Garden over the summer, act as local food activists, and run an on-site Farmer's Market.
- 4,600 dollars went directly into a savings account from sales at Market.

In 2011 Growing Food, Growing West became known as Growing Food, Growing Health to include 2 new Gardens at neighboring Hillcrest and Sunset Hill Elementary Schools. The project grew to 10,000 square feet, all on school grounds. 9 fruit trees and 200 feet of raspberries, blackberries, and gooseberries are happily settled in the soil of West Middle School. Through this project, 1,300 students in the community now enjoy a living classroom and explore all of the wonders of growing, harvesting, and eating fruits and veggies.