

Record # **141** Date Submitted: **2011-04-08 10:43:32**
 My principal has reviewed: **YES**

Project Name: **Edible Schoolyard: Connecting Children to Their Food Source by Linking Food, Health, Curriculum, and Environment**
 Project Type: **InterDisciplinary** Explain Category:

This is a Mini Grant
 Resident Name: Email: Telephone:

Grades: **Kindergarten 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th**

Number of Students **430**

Yes, I will undertake project with partial funding.

DESCRIPTION: Project Description: This project will focus on creating (and eventually sustaining) an outdoor edible schoolyard consisting of the following components: Raised garden beds (one per grade level), meeting area for students to congregate, compost/vermicompost section, tools/storage bins and location for a water source. This outdoor classroom will help to enhance and promote the following activities: All students (k-5) will use the space to further develop skills as writers, critical thinkers, and problem solvers. In particular, each grade will integrate existing science standards, as well as the upcoming revised standards: Kindergarten: unit on ladybugs and weather patterns; First Grade: butterfly life cycle and sun/shadows; Second Grade: Soil and lifecycle of plants; Third Grade: Plant and Animal Adaptations, Ecosystems, Conservation; Fourth Grade: Water cycle and erosion, Energy in Ecosystems; Fifth Grade: Earth in the Solar System

GOALS: One goal of the project is to connect children to their food source by linking food, health, the environment, and the curriculum. Subsequently, children will gain an overall greater understanding of the connection between their own actions and the impact on the environment. Student achievement will increase in the areas of math (problem solving, fractions, measurement, estimation), writing (expository/nonfiction, poetry, narrative, descriptive), reading (critical thinking skills, inferring, building background knowledge), health (healthy heart units) and science (as mentioned above). In addition, the edible schoolyard will be integrated with the Chefs Move to School and Farm to School programs currently in place at the school, and will ideally become an integral part of the school culture, as we continue to partner with Nutrition Services. A garden committee comprised of members of the faculty and parents has already been put in place and will continue as this project grows. We anticipate having garden coordinators (1 parent and 1 teacher) as a year-long position. In looking to make this project sustainable, there are long-term goals that we wish to see in the future as we expand upon our work: 1.) Relationships/Partnerships will be formed throughout the community, between schools across the district, as well as with different members of the West Hartford community. 2.) Teachers on the school-wide garden committee will share their work by providing workshops and CSI series for faculty. 3.) There will be events held such as spring farmers' markets where children sell harvested produce to the community and use the profits to supplement garden costs; children will be paired with senior citizens on various activities, like our annual Special Person's Day; students from neighboring schools and universities will form a partnership with our students and use the edible schoolyard as a place to work together and learn. Education majors at Central Connecticut State University are now mandated to create and implement a unit on sustainability in education as part of graduation requirements. An outreach has been formed with a professor who would like to partner CCSU students with our school.

TIME LINE: The garden project will take approximately three years to be fully implemented; for the purposes of this grant, the events for the 2011-2012 school year are as follows: **Spring/Summer 2011: Design layout/blue prints for garden, organize community, parent and school volunteers for the garden. Conduct a "Go Green" all school assembly to gather excitement and support from students, form a student "Go Green Team". Fall 2011: Build and install 6 raised garden beds, build hoop houses over beds for winter harvesting, fill beds with organic compost, plant seeds for winter harvest of greens. Host a "Groundbreaking" ceremony with faculty, parents, and community members. Winter 2012: Work with Go Green Team to develop activities and projects for the spring. Students harvest herbs and greens and work with local chefs to prepare/taste new cafeteria items. Existing committee of teachers gather to develop ways to integrate the garden with teaching and present to the faculty. Spring 2012: New plantings, organize and harvest vegetables for spring/summer series of farmers' markets, design a schedule for classes to utilize the garden. **Can be accomplished without initial funding.

EVALUATION: There will be various methods with which to evaluate the success of the edible schoolyard project. First, were we successful in designing, creating and utilizing the garden? An initial survey was sent to parents (winter 2010) inquiring about their feelings toward starting a garden project at the school, with over 98% of parents stating their support and commitment to this long term cause. A follow-up survey will be conducted once the garden has been implemented for parent and community feedback, input, and overall feelings toward the project. Students and faculty will take a survey to measure their feelings toward the garden and provide input on how to make it most effective and meaningful. Teachers will use rubrics to assess the work students do in relation to the garden. Students will be expected to show their learning in multiple formats: writing, diagramming, sketching, collecting and organizing data, etc.

Amount Requested: \$2,000 Other Requested: \$250-\$500

BUDGET	AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
Materials	0	seedlings, mulch, wheel barrels	to be donated
Equipment	\$340.00	(2) Rain Barrels, Worm casting compost tea sprayer, materials for 6 raised garden beds	lumber to be donated
Supplies	\$1260.00	Organic soil amendments (fishbone meal, green sand, bat guano, oyster shell lime); Approximately 216 cubic ft. of organic soil/compost; garden tools, hoses, watering cans	Greencycle, Hayneedle, garden center
Honoraria	0		
Travel	0		
Shipping	0		
Mounting	\$200.00	Bamboo, garden twine, stakes, hoop house construction	
Installation			
Other 1	\$200.00	Curriculum and farmer's market expenses	
Other 2			
Total	\$2,000.00		

Reason I didn't submit report:
 I am applying for One grant
 Yes, I will submit an evaluation.
 Yes, you have my permission to use my application.

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