

Garlough Environmental Magnet School

1740 Charlton Street
West St. Paul, Minnesota 55118



JeffersFoundation.org

Summary

Garlough EMS has both a school garden and a community garden on their school grounds. They work closely with parents and the Dodge Nature Center to coordinate garden projects. All teachers are involved in Vermicomposting which they use for their garden plots. Their OWLS program, 'Outdoor Wonder Learning Stations,' serves as a 'classroom' outdoors.

Photos



left, Composting is an integral part of gardening at Garlough. *below*, Gardens are maintained by each grade level. This is a Kindergarten garden.



left, Tasting in the garden is a big part of learning, too. *above*, Seeds for this year's popcorn are harvested from last year's produce. *above right*, Vermiculture is also an important part of the program.



Details

Garlough Environmental Magnet School has had a School Garden Project since 2006. There are various coordinators: the PTO parents work on the community garden, students and classroom teachers work on the others. Pete Cleary, from Dodge Nature Center, and Jenny Parker, magnet facilitator, help coordinate all of the gardens in some aspects, especially development of new areas.

All classrooms have adopted an Outdoor Wonder Learning Stations (OWLS) to care for, plus their own raised bed garden. The garden is supervised by classroom teachers. Garlough EMS is involved in vermicomposting and each teacher has a worm bin in his or her classroom. The by-product produced by the worms is used to fertilize the school garden. All of the students participate in the garden program and everything they do is standards-based so the garden serves as an educational tool. Vandalism has not been a problem and they have solicited the help of community partners to oversee the garden. During the summer months, PTO sponsors help maintain the garden and solicit families to help. The garden produce is sold, used in the school

lunchroom, shared in the community, or shared by students and families. They have great community support and are able to be self-sustaining.

OWLS Program

Check out this website featuring, OWLS, "Outdoor Wonder Learning Stations."

<https://sites.google.com/a/isd197.org/owls/1>

For more information contact:

Jennifer Parker

jennifer.parker@isd197.org