

Lakeview Elementary School

4110 Lake Drive
Robbinsdale, MN 55422



JeffersFoundation.org

Summary

- Lakeview is an IB School
- Garden activities tied to state standards
- Uses Inquiry method at each grade level
- Has a veggie and butterfly garden
- All grade levels involved in garden activities

Photos



Students were involved with the garden from the very beginning



Many hands, eager to help...



above, left, The garden space grows both vegetables and flowers to attract butterflies and other pollinators.



Details

General Information:

Lakeview Elementary School is an International Baccalaureate (IB) School. In adding a garden program component to the curriculum the following goals were set: (1) to expose students to hands on environmental learning, (2) to connect their curriculum to the real world, (3) to provide students with an opportunity to cultivate and eat fresh produce. (4) to develop a program that sustains itself year after year and (5) to offer parents an opportunity to engage in the school community.

Garden Site:

The garden site consists of two 10' x 10' gardens located on school grounds. One garden is a vegetable garden and the other is a butterfly garden. Soaker hoses and rain barrels provide water.

Garden Product:

Vegetables and herbs were cultivated in one garden and sunflowers, marigolds, tulips, bee balms, purple coneflowers, and black-eyed Susan in another. The welcome back-to-school spaghetti dinner in September included some of the produce that was harvested.

Education:

Several state standards are integrated into the garden curriculum. Such as: (1) Describe similarities and differences between soil and rocks, (2) Describe the characteristics of plants at different stages of their life cycles, (3) Maintain a record of observations, procedures and explanations, (4) Identify where water collects on Earth, including atmosphere, ground, and surface water, and describe how water moves through the Earth system using the processes of evaporation, condensation and precipitation, (5) Describe a natural system in Minnesota, such as a wetland, prairie, or garden, in terms of the relationships among its living and nonliving parts, as well as inputs and outputs and (6) Differentiate between living and nonliving things.

Student Involvement:

Every grade level incorporated the garden into the current IB Unit of Inquiry.
Kindergarten - composting with the recycling unit.
Grade 1 - Rocks and soil, plants for butterflies and the life cycle unit.
Grade 2 - Starting plants unit.

Grade 3 - Plant adaption unit.
Grade 4 - Water runoff and soil unit.
Grade 5 - Natural resources unit.

Special Learning needs:

Digging in the dirt and other garden experiential activities helped students with sensory issues, feel calm and be better able to regulate their bodies. It also helped to give students a sense of belonging as they are doing something for their school and helping promote teamwork and cooperative learning for students with behavior management and social skills needs.

Supervision and Maintenance:

The IB Primary Years Program (IBPYP) served as the overseer and supervisor of the garden. They coordinate how the staff, students and community members utilize the garden year round. Future plans include installing a fence around the garden.

Sources of Funds and Assistance:

The grant money from Jeffers Foundation was used for start-up items needed for the garden. There was also a grant from the Seven Dreams Education Foundation.

Sustainability:

With the support of the school administration, building and grounds, principal, staff, PTO and the community the plan is to continue this program in coming years.

For more information contact:

Judie Bomchill
Judie_bomchill@rdale.org