



Model EE Program

Franklin Garden of Learning

The Franklin Garden of Learning is a school-wide program. Students help maintain the school garden, established a butterfly garden, participate in an Earth Day workday, a weekly parents' Farmers' Market, and help beautify their community. The program receives a tremendous amount of support from parents and local community groups.



Franklin Elementary School

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About the Program

Grade: Kindergarten to 5th grade students

Description: Twenty-two elementary school classes (over 700 students, 80% Free/Reduced Lunch, and 53% English Language Learners) rotate on a bi-weekly basis and receive instruction from a garden teacher. The students receive 10 garden lessons that include topics such as general environmental education, ecology, composting, and nutrition. They participate in Garden Workdays guided by a gardening expert from the multicultural parent community and every Wednesday the students host a Farmers' Market for their parents. Multicultural themes are interwoven throughout the program and include learning about a Japanese garden, Three Sisters plot-beans, corn, squash, and a cooking class using the seed to table approach.

Classroom Integration: Language, math and science skills are developed through meaningful curriculum that connects children with the natural world and life around them through the use of the garden. Lessons expose inner city children to environments and experiences to which they typically would not be exposed. Children learn a commitment to lifelong healthy living, becoming members of society who seek to preserve life through conservation efforts, and take responsibility for the sustainability of the natural habitats that surround them.



About the Program continued...

Environmental Focus: Gardening, Composting, Stewardship

Academic Focus: Mathematics, Science, and Nutrition

Teaching Practices: Cooperative Learning, Student-centered, Hands-on, Real-life Issues

Lesson Plans Available: Garden Ecosystem & Habitat, Crop Planning & Bed Design, Plant Structure & Function, Soil Investigation and Composting, Seed Saving, Measuring Plant Form & Growth, Food Quality

Website: <http://franklin.ousd.k12.ca.us/Garden.htm>



Partners:

- UC Botanical Garden
- City of Oakland
- Grey Kolevson, Curriculum Consultant
- The Watershed Project
- Merritt College
- Co-Evolution, San Francisco
- Oakland Parent Literacy
- StopWaste.Org
- Master Gardeners
- City of Sacramento
- CalMax
- Milpitas Womens' Prison

Resources:

- Grants
- Local EE Providers
- Field Trips
- School Staff
- Curriculum
- Parents/Community Members
- Teachers

Program Highlights

- Curriculum was developed with the assistance of UC Botanical Garden
- Incorporates activities from Math in the Garden which uses a mathematical lens to explore the magical arena of gardens
- Students learn about California native plants
- Service-Learning Projects include maintaining the school garden, butterfly garden, planting specific flowers to attract pollinators, a weekly Farmers' Market, and Earth Day workday
- Strong parent and community involvement
- Promotes multicultural activities

California Academic Content Standards

Math:

M&G: 1.1.1 Compare the length, weight, and volume of two or more objects by using comparison or a nonstandard unit.

Science:

1.1.b. Students know the properties of substances can change when the substances are mixed, cooled, or heated.

4.3.a. Students know ecosystems can be characterized by their living and non-living components.

4.3.c. Students know many plants depend on animals for pollination and seed dispersal, and animals depend on plants for food and shelter.

