
Science



Science needs to be a regular part of student learning, not just an add on. Plant-based learning will open a door to discovery of the living world. The edible plants and flowers that our students will be able to grow in the seed trays with heat mats and t-5 lights that we are requesting will offer a platform to help kids achieve learning goals for years to come and in ways that are recommended by the National Science Standards. Our goal is that our school garden will engage our students, grades K thru 5, with things that must be measured, counted, weighed, arranged, planned and cared for and will require their intellectual, emotional and social involvement. Students will start with lessons adjusted to their grade level such as: living and non-living in the garden, soil science, and tracking weather changes. Other topics we will cover are: dissecting cafeteria meals and finding what items could be grown in the garden, seeds and learning about the 'leaves we eat'.

Why is it starting?



Many students have limited opportunities for nutritious food outside of school and open safe places to exercise and learn. It is not uncommon for our students to experience homelessness, family mental health issues, exposure to addiction, and domestic violence. At our school, we strive to create students who can take control of their lives and become self managers. We do this through constant modeling and positive reinforcement of high expectations for our students organization and behavior.

Our students need to get outside, digging in the earth, engaging in real world problem solving, planning, discovering, cultivating ownership and learning in ways that will be memorable and meaningful.

Though our community often does not have the monetary resources to provide for a high quality plant based diet, Menlo Park is in a unique position to promote nutrition and healthy eating to students who are eager to learn.

menlogarden.weebly.com

Menlo Park School Garden If You Eat You're In



menlogarden.weebly.com

Our students come from diverse backgrounds and speak over twenty different languages. 80% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Many students have limited opportunities for nutritious food outside of school. A school garden would serve as a community center for our school that brings together students and families across grade levels and cultures. Most importantly, it would be a tool for us to provide positive experiences and life long lessons for our students.



We want to create a special place that cultivates a sense of pride and ownership in our students.



Future Garden Site

Our Garden is located in a sunny courtyard in a u-shaped section of our building. The existing shrubs will be removed to make room for the raised beds and seating area. Please visit our website to learn more about our project and to consider making a donation.

Thank you for your time.

Menlo Park Elementary School