

The Top 8 Reasons Schools Want Gardens



Neighborhood Relationships

Curtis Bay EMS

- *Want a space where older & younger generations can have positive interactions
- *Brings in new volunteers and community members
- **Environment based programs foster a sense of cooperative learning and civic responsibility” (CA State Education & Environment Roundtable, 2005)



Improvement of Space “because it’s there”

Holabird EMS

- *want to draw attention to the positive use of space
- *generates energy and excitement about the school



Hamilton EMS

- *Asphalt removal
- *Outdoor classroom

Civitas School

- *Have an under-utilized courtyard



Involves diverse learners

Barclay EMS

- *can be used for special ed activities

St. Elizabeth School

- *Construct special raised beds accessible to wheelchairs

Youth in Transition School

- *used to teach job skills to special needs students

- Evidence of increased test scores** (Lieberman & Hoody, 1998)



Behavioral Impacts



- **Gilmor EMS** – A number of teachers are from the Philippines, where they would have students work in the garden for half an hour each morning.
- **Sharp-Ledenhall** when students are acting up they're asked if they'd like to go out to the garden.
- Studies find increased enthusiasm for teaching, fewer classroom discipline problems, reduced absenteeism (Evergreen, 2000)

Curricular Focus

- **Green School** – Focus for every grade level
- **City College High School** –English & Chemistry
- **Montessori School**- Overall hands-on project
- **Western High** – Teach education to younger students



Roland Park Country School

Nutrition Education



- 37% of high schoolers in BCPSS are overweight – (TFCO, 2008)
- BCPSS students' demonstration, Great Kids Farm
- Develop a taste for local, seasonal foods
- Desire to be part of the movement



Environmental Benefits



- Food gardens are a “gateway” for environmental education
- Schoolyards represent a large amount of underutilized space in cities



- Habitat for native species, insects, migratory birds
- Watershed protection/ asphalt removal
- Rain, butterfly, habitat, wetland gardens common

MD Green School Certification

- Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education
- **Harlem Park EMS** –Used as a way to pull in more teachers



Children & Nature Movement

- Study of at-risk youth shows 56% never having spent significant time in a natural setting American Institutes for research, 2005
- No Child Left Inside Coalition
- Children & Nature Network
- Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Ed.
- (conference in Feb.)
- Rousseau, Gandhi, Montessori, & Dewey promoted school gardens Subramaniam, 2002



Challenges

- Leadership & time
- Long-term maintenance
- Gardening knowledge base
- Funding/ materials
- Justified curricular connections to MSC's

