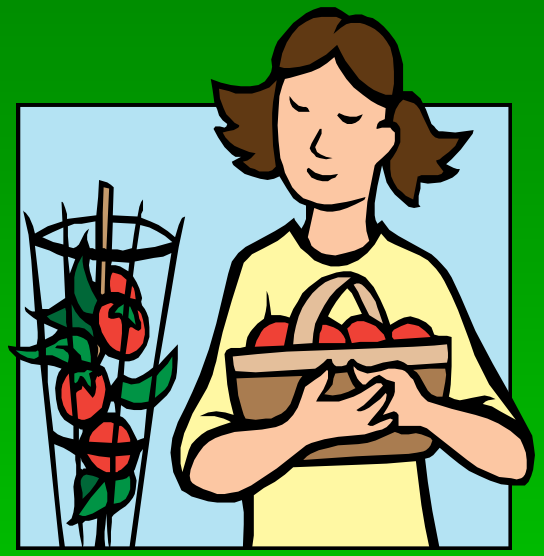
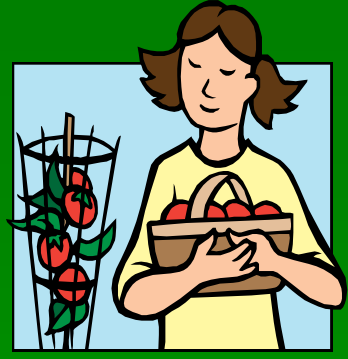


Organic Gardening

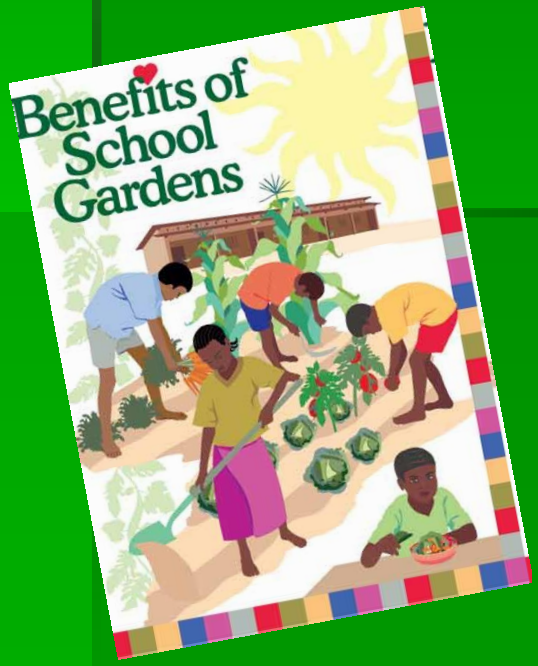


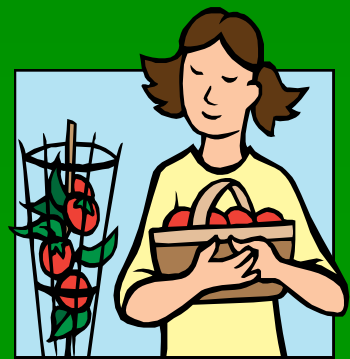
“What a wonderful goal it is to have a garden in every school…for as we know, there is a school in every garden!”

CA Public School Official

Step One: Administrative Support

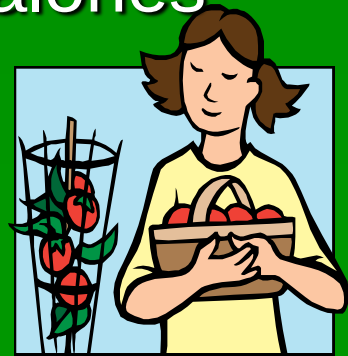
- Why do we need a garden?
- Experiential Learning Opportunity
- Ties to Curriculum—not an “extra” activity





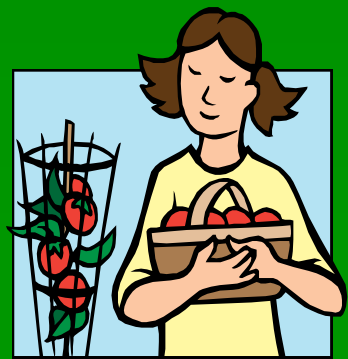
Health & Nutrition

- 24% of GA third graders are obese; 15% of middle & high school students are obese
- $1 buys 1,200 calories of potato chips & cookies OR 250 calories of whole foods like carrots
- $1 buys 875 calories of soda OR 170 calories of fruit juice



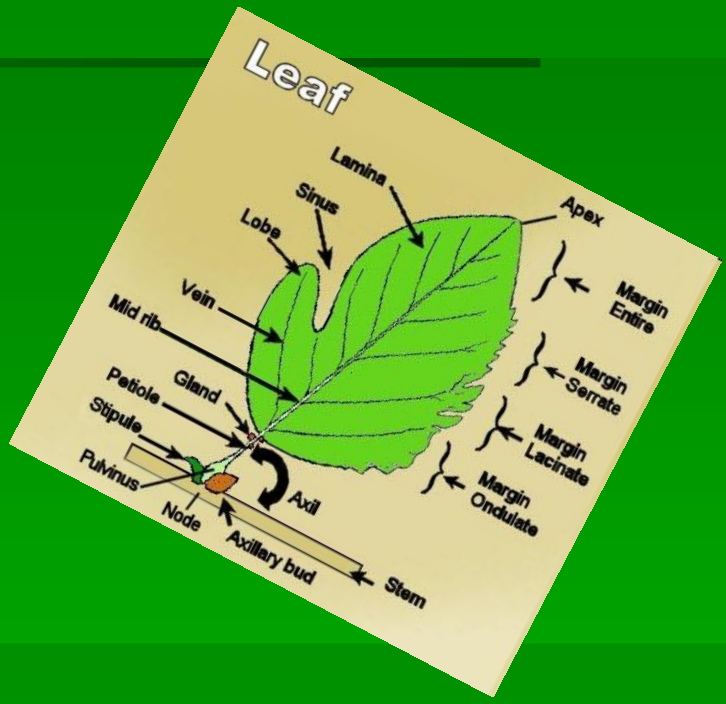
Health & Nutrition

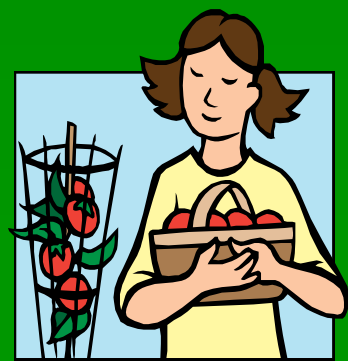
- Children are more likely to eat what they grow
- Physical Activity
- Natural Light



Science

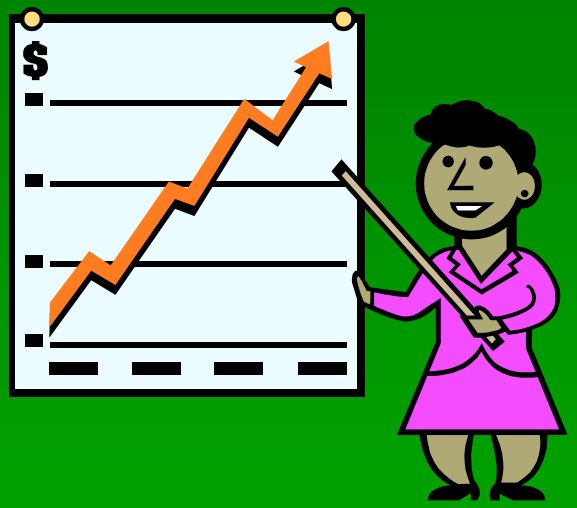
- Parts of a plant
- Types of roots
- Types of leaves
- Complementary plants
- Soil replenishment
- Nitrogen fixing (naturally)
- Photosynthesis

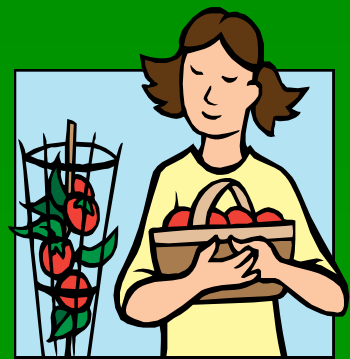




Math

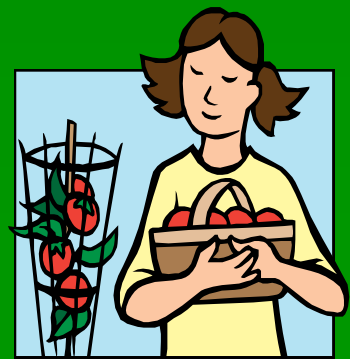
- Measurements
- Graphs
- Capacity
- Counting
- Square Foot Gardening





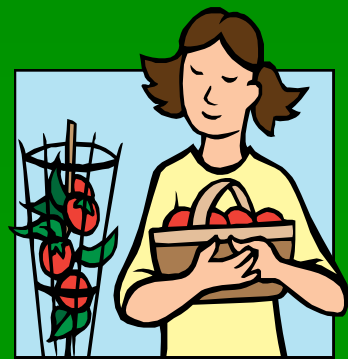
History

- Three Sisters Garden
- Colonial 4-Square
- Thomas Jefferson



Environmental Education

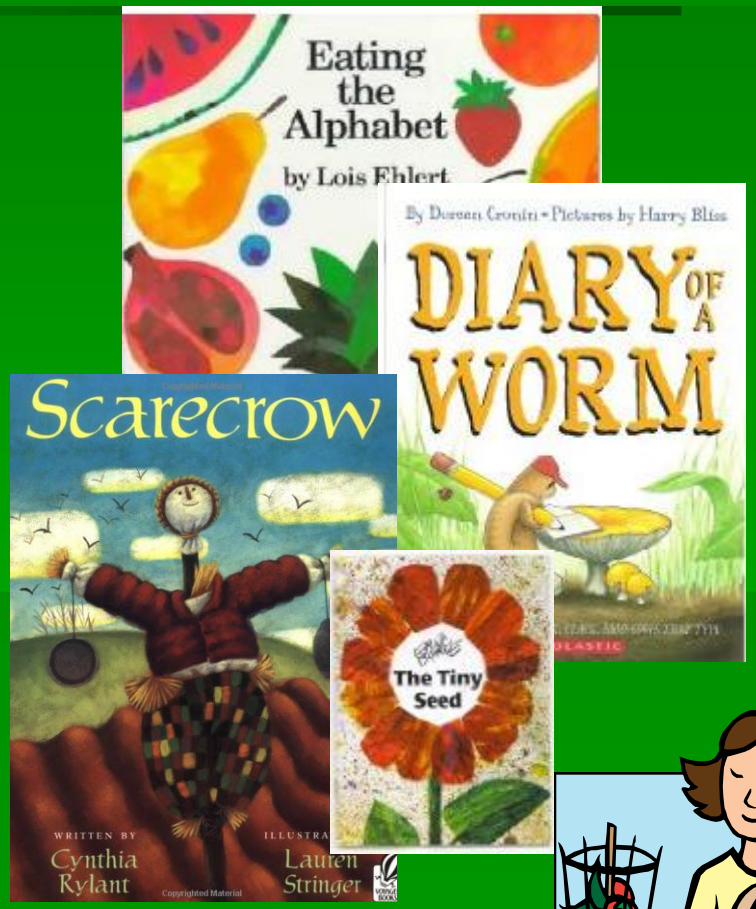
- Crop rotation
- Synthetic nitrogen fixing
- Drinking water warning

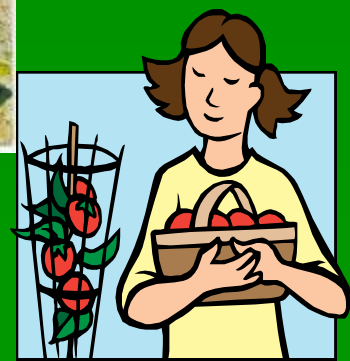


Language Arts

Books

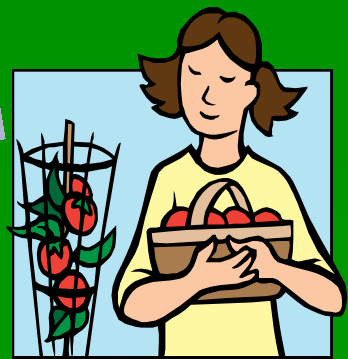
- Eating the Alphabet
- Diary of a Worm
- Scarecrow
- The Tiny Seed
- Inch by Inch





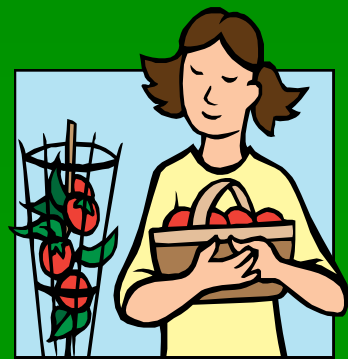
Writing

- Garden Journals



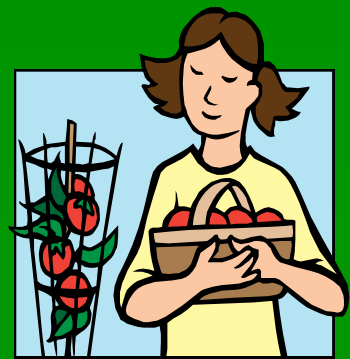
Social Studies

- Producers and Consumers



Additional Curriculum Options

- MANY on-line options
- Mendez Foundation's Seeds of Nutrition

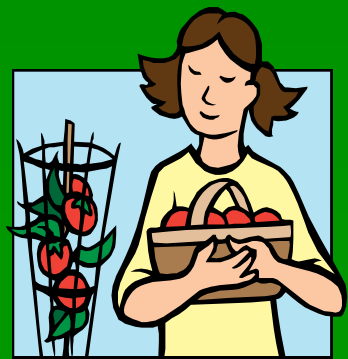


Beyond Academics

- Working with others
- Patience
- Love of Nature
- Responsibility
- Self Confidence

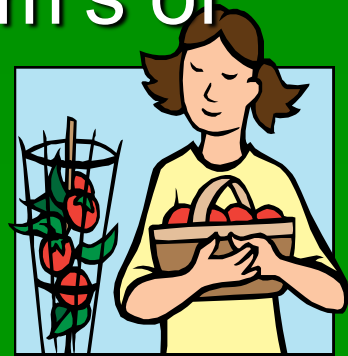
Step Two: Mechanics

- Initial aspirations
- Input from Seeds of Nutrition
- Input from Principal
- Target fall harvest
- Installation: Farmer D Organics
- Training for Teachers



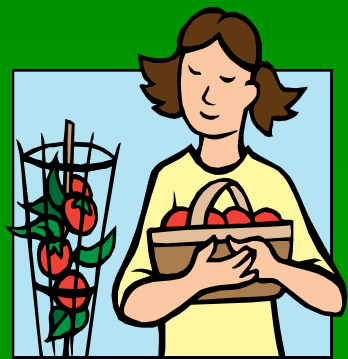
Step Three: Funding

- Cost: $1,300
- Payment flexibility
- Yearly maintenance: estimated $500
- PTA
- Other Fundraising: Seeds of Nutrition
- Grants: Organic Valley, Target, Tom's of Maine, Lowe's, Wal-Mart, Annie's



Maintenance

- Student & Teacher led
- Parent volunteers
- Farmer D support

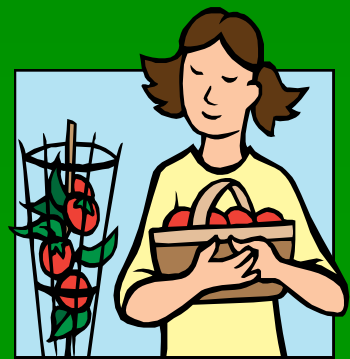


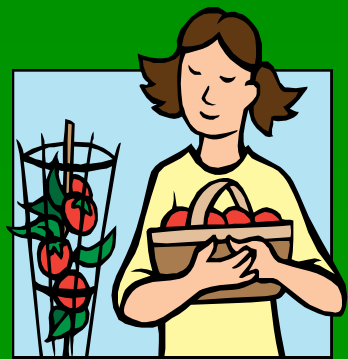
FARMER D
DUNWOODY

FARMER D

Future

- Rain Barrels
- Composting



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead