



Youth Grow Educator, Kelley Smith
with the student at Cherry Park

"Growing Gardens and Ms. Kathy planted not just things that grow in gardens but the seeds of inquiry for my students this year.

When we are outside for any reason they now see things they never knew existed: birds, pollinators, insects and seedlings. They want to learn more and more about each of these. It's like a light-switch was flipped on!"

- 2nd grade teacher at Glenfair

WHAT WE DO

- Teach Pre-K - 5th grade lessons, during the school day, that integrate environmental science, food and culture
- Provide Pre-K- 5 after school and summer garden/food education
- Develop teen leaders in food and agriculture through after school, summer programming and internships
- Grow organic fruits and vegetables and offer cafeteria tastings, cooking lessons and take-home kits
- Contribute to an increase in sustainable school garden programs through a national training, technical assistance and network-building

YOUTH GROW'S MISSION

Youth Grow engages kids in food and gardening, giving them new perspectives on food, health, and the world around them.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

OUR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- 2,806 students taught during the school day
- 1,482 total K-8 classes in the school day
- 35 lessons in Spanish for 175 students
- 146 elementary school teachers experienced outdoor education
- 350 students in after school clubs
- 244 after school Garden Club sessions
- 1,232 lbs of produce harvested
- 1,645 cooking kits with local produce
- 15 cafeteria tastings
- 5 farmers and food entrepreneurs presented to students
- 19 family events
- 177 students in summer programs at 6 schools



SPANISH PROGRAMMING

A total of 35 classes were taught in Spanish at 2 schools with Dual Language Immersion programs, reaching **175** students.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

52 lessons provided to 65 students over 5 sites and one new garden built at Headstart

HIGH SCHOOL

- 52 students participated in after school clubs
- 29 after school club sessions, and 1 cooking lesson to the softball team
- 8 times high school student(s) assisted in the elementary garden clubs
- 15 students in gardening elective in summer school
- 3 paid summer interns
- 60lbs of organic produce harvested for the school's food pantry

MOVEMENT BUILDING

- Ran the School Garden Coordinator Certificate Training 4 times (24 live discussion sessions) for 127 people from around the country
- Facilitated the Portland Farm and Garden Educators Network

WHAT OUR TEACHERS ARE SAYING

- **93%** of teachers agree that Garden-based lessons help develop student's science skills
- **95%** of teachers agree that garden education is an effective way to teach students about the environment
- **95%** of teachers agree that the hands-on nature of garden lessons was effective in engaging English Language Learners
- **93%** of teacher agree that garden lessons were accessible and engaging for their students with special learning needs
- **91%** of teachers agree that lesson content and delivery engaged students of a diversity of racial and ethnic identities



WHAT OUR YOUNGER STUDENTS ARE SAYING

Has garden club helped you think about your role in taking care of the environment?

- Helps me get off my tablet and learn about the planet
- Helps me live with plants - nature is beautiful
- Cause we are growing plants we can eat. Almost everything we see is part of the world.

How has Garden Club changed the way you think about food and eating?

- Yes, because it's making me be more adventurous with trying new foods.
- I like cooking 'cause trying and cooking new things is really fun because we are together and talking

Is going outside important to you? Why?

- Yes, it clears your mind and helps you focus in school.
- I got to meet nature, and it's fun to go outside.
- Yes, it makes me more adventurous, doing something scary. I feel motivated.
- Yes, so I can see the garden and get a break from screen time.

WHAT OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE SAYING

What was your favorite thing about clubs this year?

- Being able to make friends and learn about gardening.
- I really enjoyed all of the different varieties of foods that I got to cook in cooking club and the things that I got to plant in gardening club.

On the scale of 1-5:

I gained a new perspective on food, food systems, or the environment. *Average 4.2*

Would you recommend these clubs to your friends?

100% responded Yes

I had fun. *Average 5 out of 5*

I really enjoyed going to the clubs this year!



Intern Minami visits Unity Farm with urban farmer and Youth Grow Educator, Iman Labanieh

WHERE WE WORK:

Lent Elementary (SE), Scott School (NE), Kelly Elementary (SE), Glenfair Elementary (NE), Davis Elementary (SE), Powell Butte Elementary (SE), Cherry Park (SE), Whitman (SE), Faubion (NE), Patrick Lynch Elementary (SE), David Douglas High School, Mt. Hood Community College Headstart (Gresham), Morrison Child and Family Services

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR WORK:

- Donate at www.growing-gardens.org
- Volunteer to build gardens, support beginning gardeners, teach classes, grow plants and more!