

# Creating Your School Garden



# Benefits of School Gardens

## Building Social and Community Skills

- Encourages team work and collaboration.
- Interpersonal relationship development.
- Student growth.













# Benefits of School Gardens

## The Outdoor Classroom



- Hands on learning.
- Encourage physical activities.
- Connecting with nature.







# Benefits of School Gardens

## Healthy Lifestyles

- Eating what you grow.
- Trying new foods.
- Learning where food comes from.









# Planning Your School Garden

## 1. Create Your Garden Team

- a) Teachers
- b) Students
- c) Administrators
- d) Parents
- e) Community Members
- f) Food Service
- g) Custodial Staff





















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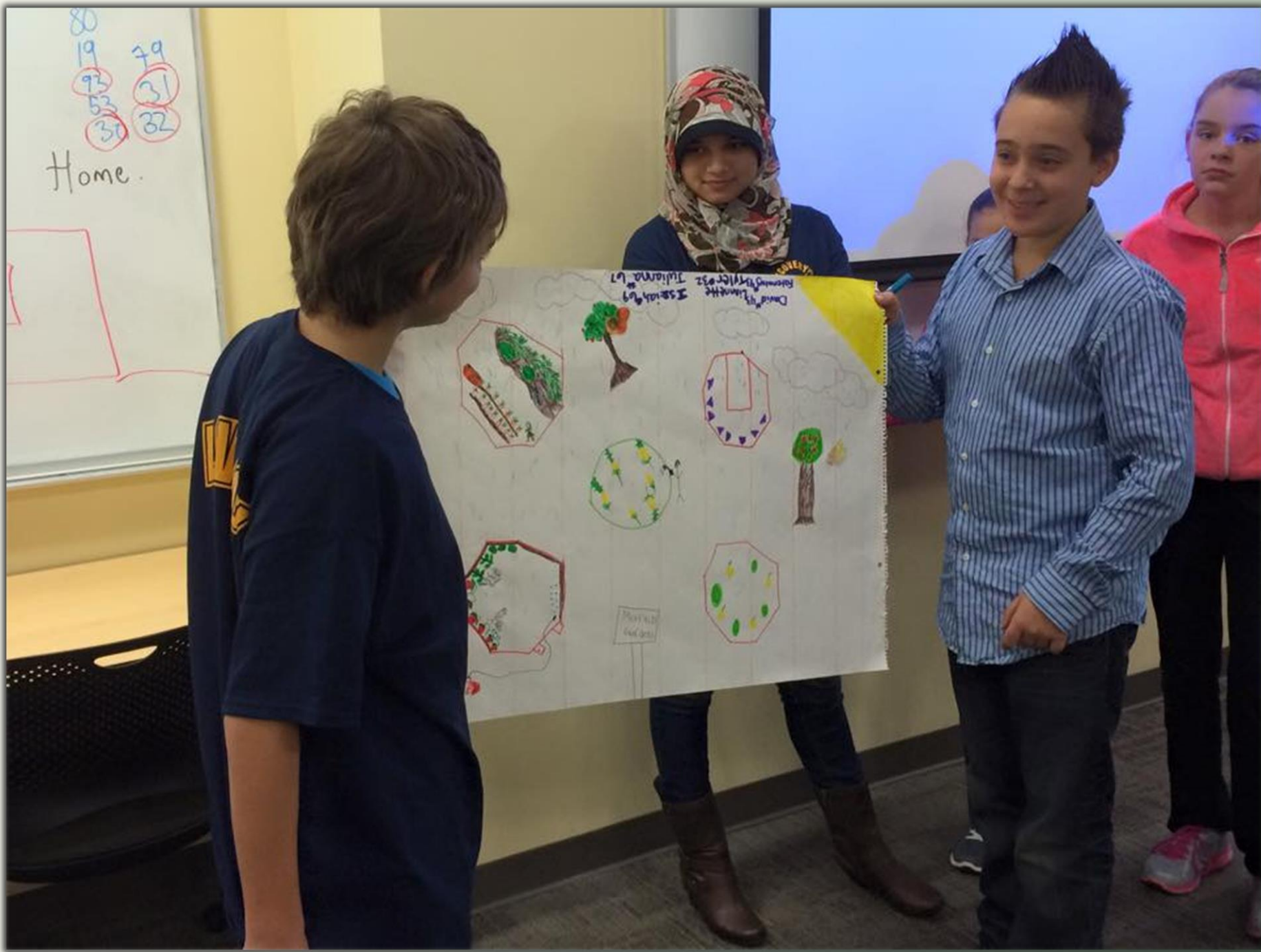
# Planning Your School Garden

## 2. Your Garden Vision

- a) What would you like to grow?
- b) How large of a garden would you like?
- c) The garden location?
- d) Who is using the garden?
- e) Funding for the garden?





















# Planning Your School Garden

## 3. Your Garden Goals

- a) Outdoor, hands on learning?
- b) Food for lunches?









# Building Your School Garden

## Raised Bed Gardening

### Advantages

- Improved soil health
- Free of contaminants
- Superior drainage
- Extended growing season
- Less weeding

























# Building Your School Garden

## Raised Bed Materials

Rot resistant wood, stone, brick, rocks, or metal.

**Do not use** pressure treated wood, railroad ties.

## Raised Bed Dimensions

At least 12 inches in height.

Not more than 4 feet wide.

Spaced at least 2 feet apart.





















# Building Your School Garden



## Growing Medium

### Top soil

- Allows for root growth.
- Habitat for microbial organisms.
- Provides necessary minerals.







# Building Your School Garden



## Growing Medium

### Compost

- Improves soil structure.
- Retains moisture.
- Aerates soil.
- Provides nutrients.







# Building Your School Garden



## Growing Medium

### Adding Soil and Compost

- 50% Soil, 50% Compost.
- 2-4 inch compost top dress next year.







# Planting Essentials

## The Growing Season

### Warm Weather Season

- Last Average Frost Date, May 15th
- First Average Frost Date, October 15th

### Cool Weather Seasons

- Beginning of April to Mid June
- Mid September to end of November

















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# Planting Essentials

## Indoor Seed Starting

- Count backwards from last frost date.
- Multiple sowings.

VEGETABLE

Tomato

Super Beefsteak

**Improved Beefsteak type with a bigger yield and meaty fruits more than 1 lb. Disease Resistant. Indeterminate.**

START INDOORS in a warm, well-lighted area 6-8 weeks before planting outdoors. Sow seeds 1/4" deep into individual containers filled with seed starting formula. Keep moist. Seedlings emerge in 7-10 days at 70-75°F. Before transplanting, move to a sheltered area outside for a week.

























# Planting Essentials

## Cool Season Planting

- Plan to start your plants from seed.
- Many cool season crop seeds are directly sown into the ground.
- Spring crops can be harvested by June.
- Falls crops can be harvested in October and November.

















# Planting Essentials



## Pollinator Gardens

- Native perennials provide a habitat for local wildlife.
- Attract pollinators which will also transfer the pollen in your crops.
- Are adapted to the local climate and require little care.











# School Garden Calendar

## December, January, and February

- Assess existing garden beds or plan your garden layout.
- Decide which crops, herbs, and flowers to plant.
- Purchase seeds for indoor starts and direct sowing.

## March and April

- Begin indoor seed starts.
- Repair, replace, or build new raised beds.
- Remove old plant debris, add compost to beds.
- Direct sow spring seeds.





# School Garden Calendar

## May and June

- Transplant seedlings into garden.
- Plant native perennials.
- Harvest early spring crops.
- Sow summer cover crop.

## July and August

- Harvest warm season and over-wintered crops.
- Add mulch, water, and weed.
- Direct sow and start fall seedlings.





# School Garden Calendar

## September and October

- Harvest warm and cool season crops.
- Transplant and direct sow fall crops.
- Plant overwintering crops.
- Sow fall and winter cover crops or add mulch.

## November

- Remove annual plant material.
- Harvest last cool season crops.
- Plant fall bulbs.

