



**2021 FBBG K12 Plant Science Education Report**

*Showcasing our post-Covid return to outcomes driven, in person K12 student Initiatives...in nature, year round!*



**Funded Programs:**

Plant Hope\*, Planet Hope\*, Adopt A Class\*, Summer Camp, Scouts, 2021 Wehr Nature Center public school partnership\*, Home School, Eagle Scout

\* multi session consecutive learning



**Funded Schools/Students Served:**

Allen Field Elementary  
Cooper Elementary  
Escuela Verde High School  
Glen Hills Middle School

Horace Mann Elementary  
Humboldt Park Elementary  
Longfellow Elementary  
Vieau Elementary

Milwaukee Parkside  
Mitchell Elementary  
US Grant Elementary  
Walt Whitman Elementary

## 2021 Funded School Districts:

Cudahy School District  
Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS)  
West Milwaukee School District

Glendale School District  
West Allis School District

## 2021 Funded Special Needs Programs: (all ages)

Life Navigators    Pathfinders    Shepherd's College

*Note for 2022:* Kosciuszko Elementary, Edgerton Elementary, Edgewood Elementary, Pleasant View Elementary, St. Marcus and MPS *Learning Journeys* for first graders are being scheduled. *Students were not permitted to travel in 2021.*

*In addition to our funded programs, FBBG offers fee based classes (earned revenue) for all ages and populations, all year.*

## Organizational Overview

- The *Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens* (FBBG) was established in 1984 in order to preserve and promote Boerner Botanical Gardens as an outstanding regional destination for learning and enjoyment.
- FBBG's K-12 student centered, outcomes driven, nature based, plant science and environmental education, occurs largely in the gardens, *and is the centerpiece of our mission and focus of our initiatives.*
- Since our inception, we have continually expanded and formalized our programming, in order to ensure that all children have substantive, measurable, in nature, experiential learning.  
  
Our programming engages all of their senses and equips developing minds with tools for learning *that they will carry with them and utilize throughout their lives.*
- Our educators are Wisconsin certified, and we follow national standards for science learning.

## Rationale / Ongoing Need

- Public school funding continues its decline, depriving K-12 students of vital *in-nature* education.
- Dominance of electronic media in the lives of developing minds is causing the loss of tactile, sensory, interactive/interpersonal, and crucial learning that ensures life balance. FBBG delivers year round, outcomes based programming, in nature, serving students from the *Greater Milwaukee Area* and surrounding Southeast Wisconsin schools.

## Our Class Objectives

- Enhance critical thinking skills; utilize and expand math and literacy skills.
- Provide students with firsthand experiences that directly support/augment in-school curriculums.
- Improve student understanding of plant and environmental science.
- Utilize service learning and introduce career choices in the Green Industry/related sectors.

*Many of our programs are offered at no cost to student or school and include transportation.*

## Our Organizational Goal

We are striving to return to our pre Covid student census; 16,000+ students learned with us in 2019.

As schools release students for attendance in off-site learning, they will be scheduled for FBBG classes at Boerner.

100+ K12 schools *are presently scheduled* for outcomes driven, interactive FBBG plant science, in nature learning through June 2022.

## From Those We Serve

*So glad that my daughter was so involved in the Gardens from age 4 on - it is now one of her favorite places! She has brought many friends from all over Milwaukee to visit! She's now sixteen and wants to volunteer at Boerner... she loves that place - goes to show, start kids early as it does have a lasting effect!"* [Parent](#)

*My favorite time at Boerner was the FBBG children's K12 programming. After shadowing FBBG's Education Manager for student classes on July 22, I know that I now want to teach kids and will be getting my teaching certificate."* [Summer Intern](#)

*The visuals and examples of plants were helpful, and FBBG educators provided great information and did a great job engaging the kids and kept them moving.* [Glen Hills MS](#)

*Every part of the program is awesome! Continue to offer this program – it's perfect for third graders.* [Cooper Elementary](#)

*Very engaging. Kids loved walking around the garden. We really enjoyed the trip and I look forward to our next visit.* [Horace Mann](#)

*FBBG teacher is great. Very knowledgeable. I love this program. Very engaging with hands-on activities and visuals are wonderful. Engaging lesson students could understand and relate to. Very enthusiastic teacher!* [US Grant](#)

*I loved the hands-on learning and the hike out to the garden is priceless.* [Allen Field School](#)

*I truly enjoyed our class as I know the students did as well. We've attended for many years now and it is always very well done! This is our best class trip every school year. The material is grade level appropriate, and the students are engaged in learning.* [Humboldt Park](#)

*Strengths of this class include the high levels of content that link to the standards.* [Longfellow School](#)

*The class was engaging with hands-on activities that bridged to learning in our school classroom. Great discussions! The kids were so engaged!! Our teacher was very knowledgeable and had really good examples for helping kids understand the material.* [Mitchell School](#)



***“It is not only for us but our children and grandchildren who will reap the benefits.”***  
Alfred L. Boerner, Landscape Architect and Visionary 1939

~

**In 2021...FBBG also returned to year round *nature driven* community engagement with:**

- Volunteer recruitment (FBBG initiative begun in in 2010);  
*over 18,000 community and corporate team hours given in support of FBBG and BBG since program inception.*
- Stroller Rolls
- Toddler Tuesdays (*new in 2021*)
- Adult classes
- Garden Walks
- Family oriented activities
- Special historic Boerner enhancing/preservation initiatives
- *The FBBG donor funded interactive **Children’s Garden** project begun in June, 2019 will be completed and open in summer of 2022.*

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