



2024 FBBG K12 Plant Science Education Report



Multi session/consecutive/year-round lessons; funded programs
Plant Hope, Planet Hope, Adopt A Class



Organizational Overview

- The *Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens, Inc. (FBBG)* was established in 1984 in order to preserve and promote Boerner Botanical Gardens as an outstanding regional destination for in nature learning and enjoyment...*accessible for all ages and populations.*
- 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 enhanced & expanded our programming to ensure that all children have substantive, measurable, in nature, experiential learning.
- Our programming engages all of student senses and equips developing minds with tools for learning *that they will carry with them and utilize throughout their lives.* Math and literacy skills are utilized and expanded.
- *The building of tolerance and inclusion has always been a natural outcropping of our classes as our children work **together** to experience and learn in nature.*
- Our educators are Wisconsin certified, and we follow national standards for science learning.

Rationale / Ongoing Need

- Public school budgets supporting K-12 students vital in-nature learning *continue to decline*.
- Dominance of electronic/social media in the lives of developing minds continues to produce a deficit in early childhood learning, *never more evident than in the wake of the 2020 pandemic*. *At stake* are direct and vital tactile, sensory, interactive, and interpersonal experiences which are crucial for life balance and character development.

FBBG delivers year-round, *outcomes-based* programming, in nature, serving students from the *Greater Milwaukee Area* and surrounding Southeast Wisconsin schools.

Our Class Objectives AND IMPACT

- Enhance critical thinking skills; utilize and expand math and literacy skills.
- 5000+ students learned side by side in 2024...building *team outlook* and *acceptance*.
- Provide students with firsthand experiences that directly support/augment in-school curriculums.
- Improve student understanding of plant science and environmental stewardship.

Majority of our student programs are offered at no cost to student/school and include transportation.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cudahy | Kenosha | Oak Creek-Franklin |
| Franklin | Kettle Moraine | Shorewood |
| Greendale | Milwaukee Public Schools | West Allis/West Milwaukee |
| Greenfield | Mukwonago | Whitnall |
| Holy Hill | Nicolet Unified | |

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS (*majority are 4 session consecutive learning programs*)

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 81st St. School | Gwen T. Jackson Ele. School | Mukwonago High School |
| A. Mitchell Integrated Arts Sch | H.W. Longfellow School | Nicolet High School |
| Albert E. Kagel School | Hales Corners Ele. School | Notre Dame Catholic School |
| Allen Field School | Heritage Christian Preschool | Pershing Elementary School |
| Atwater Elementary School | Holy Hill Area Summer School | Pleasant Prairie Ele. School |
| Auer Avenue School | Horace Mann Elementary School | Richard Kluge School |
| Cedar Hills Elementary School | Humboldt Park School | River Trail Sch Ag Science |
| Concordia Lutheran School | Imago Dei Classical School | St. Jacobi Lutheran School |
| Congress School | James Fenimore Cooper School | St. John Paul II Catholic Sch |
| Country Dale Ele. School | Jefferson Elementary School | St. Marcus Lutheran School |
| Edgerton Elementary School | Kettle Moraine Explore | Star of Bethlehem Luth. Sch |
| Edgewood Elementary School | Kosciuszko Elementary School | US Grant School |
| Faith Lutheran School | Maple Grove Elementary School | Vieau School |
| First Nations Studies | Midwest Cooperative School | Walt Whitman School |
| General Mitchell Ele. School | Milwaukee Montessori School | Woodrow Wilson Ele. Sch |
| Greendale High School | Mil Parkside Sch of the Arts | |

FROM THOSE WE SERVE... visiting school's teacher feedback:

Congress Elementary

Keeping the students engaged with all the different activities was great and needed. Thanks for sending the vocabulary and preview of content ahead of us coming. That was very helpful for students with special needs.

US Grant

-Each session builds nicely on previous ones. Student friendly vocabulary; love the hands-on learning activities.

-Lots of information, fast-paced to keep student attention, enthusiastic instructor; Third graders at Grant are grateful to attend each year.

Cooper School

*The hands-on worm activities were outstanding!
Please continue the program just as is – it's a great balance between indoor and outdoor learning!*

Allen Field

-Loved that she included Spanish vocabulary for our Spanish students.

-Students learn by doing, touching, and interacting.

-Absolutely fantastic! Very child centered.

St. John Paul II

I loved all the hands-on activities and how all students had a part in making the container for the worms.

Milwaukee Montessori

-Accessible and engaging material! Good combination of inside and outside activities.

*-Our FBBG classes are always excellent! As a Montessori school, we have a strong emphasis on botany, and this program **compliments our curriculum beautifully.***

General Mitchell

-My students loved spring planting and saying goodbye to the worms that they cared for all winter.

-We are thankful for FBBG grants to be able to come. Students loved going outside and being able to see some of the new plants as well as eat a tomato they picked themselves. We are learning about soil, soil composition, weathering, and erosion in science.

Hales Corners

*The second graders loved the hands-on learning and visiting the garden. They were so excited to bring some veggies back to school. Judy was an amazing teacher and group leader!
We can't wait to come back for the next program.*

Parkside

Covers third grade standards for plant science. Your visuals get better every year!

Vieau

The curriculum sessions go well with our in-school life cycles unit for plants; I loved the added Spanish translations supporting all of our children.

St. John Paul II

-We can't wait to do this program again next year.

-We loved all the hands-on activities and that your teacher was willing to change things a little for the special needs of our students.

-We absolutely loved all the hands-on activities. I really liked that FBBG's teacher was very willing to change things a little to meet the needs of our students. Our students LOVED the class!!! The worms were definitely the highlight!

River Trail

FBBG teacher was engaging & enthusiastic. Covered material in a way that was understandable for 3rd graders. Good job focusing on the 5 different seed dispersals. I will reinforce it at school. Counting seeds, adding them - a great way to integrate math with science.



"I loved all the stuff."



"I really loved the sunflower."



"I like the tomato and the beans."



"It is not only for us but our children and grandchildren who will reap the benefits."

Alfred L. Boerner, Landscape Architect & Visionary (1939)

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