

<i>INSERT LOGO HERE</i>	<b>Contact Information</b>  <i>Insert program contact information here</i>
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Dear (Co-educator),

School gardens offer unparalleled tools for K-12 education, and Cornell Garden-Based Learning (CGBL) provides educators with the gardening resources and professional development to support engaging, empowering, and relevant learning experiences for youth and children. We look to adopt the programs, activities, and educational materials of CGBL for use in our setting. Research has shown that garden-based learning engages young people and creates a vibrant foundation for integrated learning and youth development. We are committed to the planning, design, and implementation of a garden.

Like most projects, gardens function best with many dedicated volunteers, staff, parents, or educators to assist, and **we seek your support and assistance as we move forward with our plans.** With both the support of faculty and administration, the establishment of our garden will proceed easily and efficiently, and the rewards will be plentiful across the entire academic spectrum.

Gardens engross students in active and engaging real-world experiences. Research has evaluated the use of garden-based learning, and the results are clear – gardens provide a solid foundation for the education and growth of young minds. Students step outside the classroom, and receive new opportunities for physical activity. By creating new access to healthy food, gardens educate students about personal nutrition responsibility. This interaction with nature enforces positive values regarding environmental issues, such as the sustainable use of natural resources and conservation ecology.

This new-found ecological consciousness translates to increased aptitude for natural sciences as well as improved academic achievement. Studies show that garden-based learning increases standardized test scores across the academic spectrum, and you may wish to use the garden for teaching as well. Teachers can incorporate its tools into a vast variety of curricula,

including language arts, math, history, social studies, and physical education. Garden-based learning also reinforces classroom behavior and life skills. By encouraging students to work together, the program promotes responsibility, patience, and cooperation. Research shows that nature brings children (and communities) closer together.

A garden project is our golden opportunity to get to know and work with others in the school community – plus, it will *certainly* benefit our kids at every grade level. As our project continues to progress, and we sow the seeds of engaging education, we hope we can count on your support. *(This sentence should elaborate on ways to get involved, e.g. do you want them to volunteer time or expertise?)* Your involvement and support can make a tremendous difference in the lives of our youth.



Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension

## Cornell Garden-Based Learning

