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Dear (Administrator):

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 empowering learning experiences for youth and children. We look to adopt the free 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 implementation of a garden, and we want to share its benefits with our school.

Beyond the aesthetic benefits, gardens offer real-world experiences that are fundamental to improving the test scores, life skills, and physical health of our students, culminating in a safer, stronger school.

Gardening experiences provide one more tool for the instruction of natural sciences, but studies show that garden-based learning raises standardized test scores *across the board*. Our garden will be applicable in multiple curricula, from physical education and language arts to social studies, history and math. It will provide another way to reach our kids, particularly those who do not respond to typical classroom settings. Students will improve their problem-solving, and gain the confidence to deal with larger issues.

Evidence shows that garden-based learning improves behavior as well, promoting responsibility and healthy social interactions. By encouraging students to work together, our gardens will develop their abilities to communicate and cooperate – this will result in a safer, happier, and more productive school.

For physical activity, our garden will provide as an alternative to gym classes and athletics. Students learn about the importance of a healthy diet while getting outdoor exercise. This interaction with nature instills positive environmental values and promotes the sustainable use of natural resources

(This paragraph should discuss how you plan to fund and organize your garden – do you need funding? Where will the space be located? Who will be in charge? Why will it – or why will it not – cost the school?)

Our garden will become a valuable asset to our school. By utilizing the resources made available through CGBL, as well as the support from our school community, we anticipate quickly assembling our garden and implementing it use. The proposed construction, in itself, will provide an opportunity to engage and educate our youth, and overtime, the value of the garden as a producer of fresh food and educational resources will certainly exceed the immediate price of labor and materials. We look for your support as we continue to investigate and apply this new initiative in youth development and integrated learning.



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Cornell Garden-Based Learning

