



A School Garden is a Master Teacher

# A school garden is where students:

Are inspired to ask questions and seek answers through their own research, observations, and discovery.

“ One of the first things that a garden educator will do when bringing the children into the garden is to give them time (ahh the gift of time) to explore.”

Kristen Berhan from LifeLab Gardens



A school garden is where students:

Recognize their ability to create a place of beauty and ecological significance.

“The importance of gardening in teaching children to appreciate nature as well as to develop a sense of responsibility and purpose.” Kristin Berhan of Lifelab



# A school garden is where students:

Discover the connections between themselves, their peers and the natural world.

“Studies show school gardening can increase self-esteem, helped students develop a sense of ownership and responsibility, helped foster relationships with family members, and increased parental involvement.” Alexander and Hendren, 1998



A school garden is where students:

Contribute to the production of healthy food,  
from seed to table.

Helping our kids be healthy by building a connection to the  
food our students eat and helping to curb childhood obesity  
and nutritional deficiencies.





# A school garden is where students:

Apply concepts learned in multiple academic areas.

“Gardens should not compete with our standards; gardens should be an avenue to high standards.”

Delaine Eastin, former CA Sup. of P.I.

“Environment-based education produces student gains in social studies, science, language arts and math; improves standardized test scores and grade point averages; and develops skills in problem solving, critical thinking and decision making.”

from *Last Child in the Woods*, Richard Louv 2005



If I had to choose one topic that brought everything in the school garden together...



# Here is why:



- Pollinators help kids see that growing food is not an isolated process - pollinators and plants need each other. They are ecology in motion.
- Most pollinators are small. Watching them helps children take a closer look, and they begin to feel appreciation and wonder over fear.
- Pollinators are everywhere. Inviting native pollinators to your garden is simple, and benefits plants and well as learners.
- Pollinators are an entry point for talking about diversity. One sign of a healthy, thriving garden is how many different pollinators live there.
- Taking action to improve pollinator habitat is a wonderful service project for students. Butterfly gardens and native bee houses benefit your garden, your neighbor's gardens, and the health of the planet.

