

Growing 2 Learn Process Card

The students set out to answer the question, "Where does our food come from?" The project launched with a visit to Aaron's Creek Farm for their first fieldwork experience. Mrs. Shelley Snead walked the class through the entire growing process. After leaving Aaron's Creek Farm, the class traveled to Food Lion to continue their fieldwork. They were taught about how the various fruits and vegetables are harvested and about their journey to the produce aisle. Mr. Randolph Scott taught the class about the various parts of the plant that we eat, how to identify the plant's origin, and the difference between organic and non-organic produce. Thanks to donations from the community, students had the opportunity to select and buy a fruit or vegetable that they had never tried. They used their understanding of money to help ensure the purchases fit within their predetermined budget. The class enjoyed their fieldwork experiences and gained a greater understanding of where their food comes from.

Excited to get their own garden started, students invited parents to help clear the plot. Students from Bluestone High School, along with their teacher Mr. Thomas, helped the class construct raised beds from donated lumber. Virginia State University worked with the students to help them understand the importance of AgriScience. Home Depot generously donated soil, aprons, gardening tools, seeds, and broccoli seedlings. Home Depot team members also took time to show the students how to follow the planting instructions and assisted them in planting their first vegetable, broccoli. Jon Davidson from Berry Hill Irrigation installed a drip irrigation system and also covered the beds with greenhouse cloth. Miss Shelley from Aaron's Creek Farm brought several different vegetables for us to plant. Mr. Davidson also contributed strawberries, onions, and potatoes for our garden. He also patiently helped the class plant the different vegetables and strawberries. Students are now anxiously waiting for the plants to grow!

Standards of Learning - http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/

Science 2.1 The student will demonstrate an understanding of scientific reasoning, logic, and the nature of science by planning and conducting investigations in which (standards a through m)

Science 2.4 The student will investigate and understand that plants and animals undergo a series of orderly changes as they mature and grow. Key concepts include (standards a and b)

Science 2.5 The student will investigate and understand that living things are part of a system. Key concepts include (standards a through c)

Science 2.8 The student will investigate and understand that plants produce oxygen and food, are a source of useful products, and provide benefits in nature. Key concepts include (standards a - d)

Social Science 2.8 The student will distinguish between the use of barter and the use of money in the exchange for goods and services.

Social Science 2.9 The student will explain that scarcity (limited resources) requires people to make choices about producing and consuming goods and services.

Math 2.3 The student will (standards a through c)

Math 2.11 The student will estimate and measure (standards a through c)

Math 2.17 The student will use data from experiments to construct picture graphs, pictographs, and bar graphs.

Math 2.18 The student will use data from experiments to predict outcomes when the experiment is repeated.

Math 2.19 The student will analyze data displayed in picture graphs, pictographs, and bar graphs.

I had lots of fun today because we put the soil down and got dirty. - Taylor Seamans

The highlight of my day was getting to work outside. - Mackenzie Gregory

At Food Lion, my favorite thing was learning that some fruits or vegetables that don't look good are sometimes really good like the pears!! My highlight of the day was learning because learning makes me smarter!!- Jena Clark

My highlight of my day was doing field work. It was fun because we got to explore!! - Amelia Whittington

My highlight of the day was the field trip because it was so nice of them to take their time to share with us. - Kaitlyn Hendrick

I felt good raking leaves with my friends. I was determined to do it even though I got tired. But it was fun helping my friends. - Kaniya Sneed

I along with others developed this project in order to create a passion for learning in my students. I am amazed at the enthusiasm and excitement that the students have for their own learning. They are truly engaged in their learning. Most days, they do not even want to go home because they would rather continue working on the garden. I am extremely proud of each child in this class. The outpouring of support from our local businesses, parents, and community members has been humbling and overwhelming. We can't thank everyone enough for their generosity. - Miss Eure