



OutTeach

Go Outside Expectations





Whittier Elementary

6201 5th St. NW
Principal Tiffany Johnson
@PrincipalTeaJay



Student Demographics:

- 64% Black/African-American
- 1% Asian
- 27% Hispanic / Latino
- 5% White non-Hispanic
- 2% Multiracial





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Thanks to our corporate partner, Out Teach brought together teachers, students, and community members to share their ideas for Whittier Elementary's Outdoor Learning Lab.

Adults and children alike used their creativity to imagine, design, and build their perfect outdoor classroom.



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Danielle (pictured), one of the winners of the design competition, shared her ideas for the Outdoor Learning Lab.

She would like to see an outdoor classroom with an abundance of plants and veggies, a walkway throughout the space and plenty of green space to learn in.



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Students, teachers, and community members worked through several activities to determine their goals for the outdoor learning lab. They wanted their space to have sensory elements, ADA accessibility, and STEM resources.

Teachers wanted the space to include a water feature, raised beds, composting bins, white boards, a greenhouse, and a walking path.



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Vision:

- All children learn best when they are involved in experiential learning
- More rigorous lessons
- More active learning
- Any lesson can be brought outside



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Challenges:

- Air quality and poor lighting are important factors that influence learning, especially if the school building is old
- Having teachers trained on the power of experiential learning outdoors
- Parent involvement
- Garden maintenance year-round



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Process:

- Out Teach Learning Lab - Installed -May 2019
- 45 volunteers
- 325 students have access to outdoor learning every day
- Teachers are receiving job-embedded coaching each school year (starting in 2019)
- The staff at Whittier created a Garden Logic Model including:
 - Long and short terms goals that are aligned with Whittier's STEM mission
 - Academic goal
 - Environmental goals
- All the projects are supported by invested parents who also learn new ways to prompt learning and communication, maintain engagement and find new interests for their children.
- One example of outdoor lessons culminated with students sharing data they collected using calendars, pictures, and completing graphic organizers to create individual and joint PowerPoint presentations.
Click [here](#) to view the graphic organizer used by students during this project



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Thank you to the staff at Whittier Elementary, especially Lisa Washington for finding innovative ways to engage students and families through outdoor learning, especially last year, during distance learning.

We are excited to see such a strong partnership and creative ways to engage students and families!



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Videos

[Interview at D.C.'s Whittier Elementary](#)

[How to Engineer a Flying Seed Model!](#)



Disclaimer

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