



Chicken Management Plan Template for District Schools

School Information

Name: **Stoddert Elementary School**_____

School Address: **4001 Calvert Street NW, Washington, DC 20007**_____

Chicken Program Contact Information

Name: **Hannah Schiff**_____

Email: **h.b.schiff@gmail.com**_____

Affiliation with School: **School Garden Coordinator**_____

of chickens on site: (1-6 hens) **2**_____

Size of coop (in square feet) **6.5ft long x 39 inches high and wide**_____

Size of run (in square feet): **30ft long x 15ft wide**_____

The chicken management plan should address the following questions:

1. What procedures are in place to ensure hands are properly washed and that shoes are clean are before and after handling of chickens and entering chicken area?

There is a hand washing station in the garden with a sink and soap as well as a hose. All students and adults will wash their hands with soap and water at the sink, and use the hose to wash their shoes before and after handling the chickens, and entering the chicken area.

2. What procedures are in place to ensure students have been properly trained to handle chickens?

Prior to the chickens' arrival, students will be educated about proper ways to handle chickens by the School Garden Coordinator, Ms. Hannah. Once the chickens arrive, Ms. Hannah will do demonstrations for students to show how to properly handle the chickens to ensure that students are properly trained to handle chickens.

3. What procedures are in place to ensure students are properly trained to enter the chicken area?

After Ms. Hannah has explained to students (prior to the arrival of the chickens) and has completed demonstrations of how to enter the chicken area/handle the chickens, students must verbally explain to Ms. Hannah how they will enter the chicken area and handle the chickens. If the student can successfully verbally explain proper chicken care and behavior in the chicken area, they will be allowed in to the chicken area. Students must then consistently demonstrate successful behavior/actions/chicken care in the chicken area.

4. How will you care for chickens in the event of unplanned school closings or extreme weather?

In case of unplanned school closings, Jessica O'Connell, the PTO VP Garden Chair that lives very close to the school, will be able to care for the chickens throughout the day (water, free ranging time, feeding). In the case of extreme weather, Jessica will be able to continuously check on the chickens, or pick the coop up in her mini van and put the chickens and coop in her backyard to have the chickens under constant watch/care.

5. How do you ensure that the chicken area is secure?

The chicken area is secured with sturdy chicken wire and a gate. The chickens cannot leave the chicken area and cannot dig under the chicken wire fencing. All entrances in/out of the coop itself are locked when the chickens are not supervised.

6. Describe the feeding and watering schedule including:

a. What watering and feeding systems will be used?

The Rent-a-Coop coop comes with a large feeder for water and a large feeder for food. Ms. Hannah will refill the water feeder daily with fresh water from the hose. Ms. Hannah will check the food feeder every day to ensure that there is plenty of food for the chickens.

b. What type of feed will be provided?

Rent-a-Coop provides enough Balanced Organic Layer Feed for the chickens for their 4-week stay.

c. How frequently will feed and treats be given?

Feed in the feeder for the hens lasts 2 weeks, but the feeder will be checked daily to ensure there is enough feed. Treats make up 10% of the chickens' diet. So, treats will be given to the chickens in the afternoon to ensure that earlier in the day they have eaten plenty of their organic feed.

7. Describe the day-to-day care and cleaning of the chickens as well as the chicken area. Include frequency of cleaning the run and coop as well as who will be responsible.

The inside of the coop is cleaned out every morning. The dirty bedding is replaced with new bedding, and all eggs are collected daily. Ms. Hannah ensures that there is plenty of food and water for the chickens in the feeders, and the chickens get plenty (30mins +) of free range time each day. Once a week, the run is completely cleaned. On this day (Friday), Ms. Hannah and Alan Maubouche (ELL teacher at Stoddert) work together to lift the coop and clean underneath it, and also clean the run.

8. What procedures are in place to ensure the chickens are properly cared for over extended breaks of three or more days?

Ms. Hannah prepares for weekend care and extended breaks of three or more days, by sending out a sign-up to all Stoddert parents/families. Families sign up for specific days to care for the chickens. The families are given ALL instructions for how to properly care for the chickens. Ms. Hannah and Jessica are both on-call on these breaks/weekends just in case the families have any questions.

9. Describe how the coop and run structures ensure that both the chickens and humans are safe and healthy.

The coop provides plenty of space for the chickens to walk about, lie down, and lay eggs. The coop has doors and locks to ensure that the chickens stay in the coop when unsupervised. However, the coop has a run attached, so that the chickens have plenty of space to walk about when locked in the coop. When supervised, the coop is unlocked, and the chickens can walk in the enclosed chicken area next to the coop (a larger run). The chickens are safe because they are always supervised when outside their coop, and locked inside the coop when unsupervised. The chickens are healthy because they get plenty of free range

time, organic feed to eat, and treats in the afternoon. Humans are safe and healthy because hand/shoe washing procedures are in order, and all humans are properly trained on how to handle chickens before entering the chicken area.

10. What is the breed of chicken and why was it selected?

The breed of chicken is Golden Comet Hen. This breed has been selected by Rent a Coop because it is the sweetest and most docile breed of chicken.

11. How are the eggs collected, stored, and used?

The eggs will be collected by Ms. Hannah, and stored, cleaned, and stored in a refrigerator. The eggs will be used for healthy cooking demonstrations with students. STUDENTS WILL NOT CONSUME THE EGGS.

12. What is the exit plan for the chicken program?

The hens will be picked up by Tyler from Rent-a-Coop on November 3rd or 4th along with the coop.

EXTRA INFORMATION:

A. Activities/Purpose of Chickens:

The two egg laying hens provided by Rent-a-Coop will be used to educate Stoddert students about animal life cycles, animal habitats, what animals need to survive and thrive, positive treatment of animals, and what it means for food (like eggs) to be fresh, local, and organic. The School Garden Coordinator has integrated hen lessons and observation time into lesson plans so students can learn from the hens.

B. Emergency Contact:

Jessica O'Connell

PTO VP Garden Chair (School Parent/Garden Liaison from the PTO)

C. List of Holiday/Dates when school will not be open

October 10 (Columbus Day)