



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

**EDUCATION**

## 2018 Best School Garden Essays

### **St. Colletta PCS**

St. Colletta PCS has an awesome garden. We feel happy (RH), crazy (AW), mad (MF) and cozy (JG) in the garden. There are herons, ducks, ants, bees and dogs at the garden (Raven). garden is wonderful (KB).

I go to and we have a garden in our school. We have fence around the garden so no one well mess up the garden. I like that we get to grow plants and eat some of them, such as carrots. I like going outside and getting vitamin d (JS).

"At we persevere towards a great school garden. Without permission for, our principal said, "Built it in front of the school!" We did. Everyone can see it. People going by learn about the plants and ask if they can come help.

### **Frances Stevens EC**

We have a fence around our garden and arches. It is a green classroom, a place for all of us. Under trees we have recycled plastic benches selected and assembled by kids. Students with physical disabilities and low vision need to relax in shade. Our paths work for wheelchairs. Everybody can plant, weed, water, harvest, and cook healthy food.

Our garden is 3 years old, big and beautiful. We work to make it better, choosing what vegetables, sophisticated herbs, and flowers to plant. We have garlic because the deer loved our kale. Kids made gravel pits under spigots to erase mosquito breeding. We added a drip irrigation system to use less water and make work easier.

### **Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS**

This fall we won Best Vegetable at the DC State Fair! We keep working.

"We love the smell of basil, the taste of pesto and the feeling of relief we feel in our garden. For a moment we don't have to do homework or worry about going home and doing choirs we just get to play and chill in the garden. The garden to green club is like an outlet to the world.

Each time we are able to come together as a community to cook, harvest food and enjoy time with others in our club. We are learning how to better our community by figuring out how to grow food ourselves and prepare it in healthy ways. We all play a part in learning how to plant and cook which helps us learn how to work as a team. Through our garden we are learning to make healthier life choices and as a bonus we earn community service hours each week. "

### **Stoddert Elementary School**

This is my first year here at Stoddert, I noticed our garden's landscape and design, especially all the built - in resting spots to relax. My garden teacher involves all students as a part of our garden experience making each of us comfortable even if it's our first time holding a worm or observing close-up the various bees and insects that identify with certain flowers and vegetables. Our vegetable to market

approach has helped me recognize step by step the hard work that farmers do daily. We learn how to be environmentally conscious. We volunteer helping separate food items and recycling products during lunch. Some of the composting are placed in our compost garden bins and later it is placed in our garden beds helping our plants grow. Our organic school garden teaches us to respect and nurture the nature around us. We sell what we grow and we learn what happens to plant growth when there's too much rainfall, like this year. There's lots of opportunities to learn so much here!

I think Stoddert has the best garden! Our garden makes me feel fresh, because of all the beautiful trees and plants! We plant foods and more. Some of our veggies are sold at our Farmers Market. All the kids help to make our garden better. We borrow chickens from a farm in the Spring and Fall. They are very social and kind. It's really fun . We learn how to germinate, seed, transplant, and manage plant growth, and most importantly get our vegetables ready for the market. Our school garden is the best !

The garden is a place that calms people. We get food for . We sometimes eat something. I love the garden there is so much in it. It is an amazing garden. It is special because kids work in it All day. Another special thing is we get chickens.

### **Bancroft Elementary School**

I think the garden is a very peaceful place because there are a lot of cool structures and there are a lot of foods too, like carrots, kale, tomatoes, and a lot of other foods too. Also, the school garden is a good place to talk with a friend.

I love our garden because it's so peaceful and all of the stuff we grow we eat and it's always so good it's always so beautiful there's always new stuff we learn. And there's always very good hiding spots and last but not least it's our friendly community.

The garden is important to me because all of the smalls, animals and plants and the art around the garden. For example, the signs for the garden beds or the tree with the teapots hanging down from it. And the animals, the brightly colored bugs, the chickens, and the ladybugs. Another reason my garden is special to me is because every year we have a great lady bug release where we release 1,000 ladybugs. This is what makes my garden special to me.

We get to harvest the veggies or fruits in the middle of the nation's capital The garden grows some of the products that we make in. We have chickens that lay eggs everyday can we can use these eggs. Also, chickens are decedents to dinosaurs. Most schools don't have those.

### **School Within School @ Francis Stevens**

Our garden is special because we grow our own food and it's really good. I love our garden. It's is beautiful. We grow different foods, fruits, and vegetables. WE have trees, bushes, and plants that grow on vines. We have grass all over the garden. WE also have sunflowers. I love my garden.

I love how the garden has grown. I remember when we had a fort that you could sit in and play tic tac tow but now the beans have expanded but now there's no room to go inside because it has expanded so much which is a good thing. I also like how many decorations that we have and add.

I like how we have chickens that produce fresh eggs for all of our recipes. I like how we can be eco-friendly and make compost to help our garden grow. I like all of the flowers. I like all types of herbs.

Our garden is special because we grow vegetables ourselves. Of course, \_\_\_ helps us with the difficult stuff, but we do most of the work. Even if we aren't in, we are still allowed in the garden. The garden is very relaxing and calming. The vegetables we grow are very good. I love our garden because it is beautiful. Our garden is always beautiful year round.