

Gilda Allen Best School Garden 2025 Awardee

Friendship PCS - Blow Pierce Middle

Submitted by: Takiyah White- Grade 7

[Click here](#) to watch the short video that was submitted along with the essay below.

The Best Garden in the District: The Blow Pierce Garden

Let's start with the fact that Blow Pierce itself is an incredible place to learn, grow, and shine. Our school garden is just the beginning of all the educational excitement you'll find here on the sunny side of Ward 7! Take a journey through the history and heart of what makes the Blow Pierce Garden truly the best garden in the District.

It all began in 2023 with our award-winning fifth-grade science teacher, Mrs. Pope. That year, our class had the amazing opportunity to partner with the Washington Youth Garden, and from that moment, we took the experience and ran with it! We started by digging into the science of planting learning about photosynthesis, soil health, lead safety, and the fascinating process of how plants grow and thrive.

After mastering the basics, we planted our first herbs right inside our classroom. Each day, we watched tiny seeds sprout and turn into strong, green plants and fruits or vegetables. When the time came, we carefully transferred them to the Blow Pierce courtyard, the perfect environment for our young plants to flourish. After six months of nurturing, watering, and caring for our garden, our hard work finally paid off the courtyard burst to life with fresh herbs and vibrant vegetables!

With the help of Ms. Alley, Ms. Caroline and Ms. Makayla from the Washington Youth Garden, we harvested our crops and created delicious salads using the produce we grew ourselves. We chopped, mixed, and seasoned together, laughing and talking as we tasted the flavors of our own success. It was more than a meal it was a celebration of growth, learning, and teamwork.

What makes our garden so special is that it teaches us far more than science. It teaches patience, responsibility, and teamwork. We learn to care for living things, to understand where our food comes from, and to appreciate how fresh fruits and vegetables make our bodies healthy and strong. Every visit to the garden reminds us that what we plant both in the soil and in ourselves can grow into something truly extraordinary.

At Blow Pierce, our garden isn't just about plants it's about community, learning, and love. It's a living classroom, a space for connection, and a symbol of what happens when knowledge and care come together. That's why I believe, with all my heart, that the Blow Pierce Garden is truly the best garden in the District!