



School Garden Report

This action is a variable point action, ranging from 10 to 30 points depending the number of garden types at the school. Garden types include: outdoor soil-based plots/raised bed gardens; greenhouse gardens; hydroponic gardens (including Aeroponic); and aquaponics gardens. For each type of garden you wish to earn credit for, complete a separate garden report (up to 3) and upload it to the application.

Reminder: The garden and supporting documentation **must be operational in the current or previous school year.**

1. Garden type selection.

Select the one (1) type of garden applied for in this report. If submitting for additional garden types, please complete separate garden reports for those gardens.

- ☒ **X** Outdoor soil-based plots/raised bed gardens
- ☐ Greenhouse gardens
- ☐ Hydroponic gardens (including Aeroponic)
- ☐ Aquaponics garden

2. Please describe the following information on the garden, including:

- a. History: Winslow Township is surrounded by a farming community, however, many of our students coming into the school have limited knowledge about the farming industry. A need to develop a space to teach this became necessary. In 2016, Bernzomatic and HGTV host, Nicole Curtis, partnered to offer a \$15,000 grant to projects that made a difference in their communities. After a nationwide vote, Winslow Township Middle School won the grant to fund our Bernzomatic IDEA Garden and MakerSpace. Representatives from Bernzomatic, Nicole Curtis, township leaders and businesses, students, and staff worked tirelessly for 3 days to build our garden. Local nursery's donated plants and gardening supplies and a local landscaping company donated hardscaping. Flower beds, raised beds, benches, walkway, copper trellis, signage, and a paver centerpiece were all custom built by the entire team. The Bernzomatic IDEA Garden is accessible to all classes ranging from math classes to teach mathematical principles to art classes teaching techniques in drawing.



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- b. Location: The Bernzomatic IDEA Garden is located in an enclosed courtyard within Winslow Township Middle School and is easily accessible to all classes.
- c. Crops Grown: There are a variety of crops that are grown in the Bernzomatic IDEA garden throughout the growing seasons.
- Herbs: basil, cilantro, mint, oregano, chives, dill, parsley
 - Vegetables: kale, tomatoes, broccoli, spinach, swiss chard and a variety of lettuce
- d. Environmentally friendly practices used: There are a number of practices we use to be environmentally friendly.
- Students and staff manually pull weeds and mulch to manage weeds instead of using herbicides.
 - Students and staff use plant-based food waste from the cafeteria to create our own compost in our garden compost bin and our vermicompost bin.
 - Students and staff use our compost and organic fertilizers to feed our plants.
 - Students and staff monitor soil moisture and weather to determine when to water the plants.
 - A compost bin and rain barrels are installed and utilized as essential components of our garden.
- e. How the food produced from the garden is used (i.e. at the school, donated, etc.)
- The food produced from our garden is used to educate our students on healthy and tasty alternatives to highly processed and fatty foods. Food challenges based on the popular cooking show “Chopped” are developed to have students create healthy plant-based dishes based on the food available from our garden. The recipes are then shared with the student’s family to promote healthy eating habits.



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- f. How the garden teaches environmental/nutrition education (reference uploaded documents)

The school has continued to build upon the success of this program and is working on incorporating the garden efforts into other courses as well. Students from the Environmental STEM classes explore some of the environmental issues facing our country and the world through the study of the campus environment and develop/test solutions to address those issues. One particular area of focus for the course is sustainable agriculture, soil and water health, and food supply. The courtyard garden is available for other teachers in the district to use as a way to augment their classroom lessons. Our overall goal is to help create the next generation of environmental scientists, engineers, and problem solvers by teaching lessons focused on raising awareness of local and global environmental issues, and challenging students to develop real-world solutions to address these issues.

3. Provide at least two samples of documentation showing environmentally friendly practices are used in the garden.

- a. Only one social media post will be accepted
- b. All materials submitted should have a date, **including the year**, indicated on them

Project newsletter article	<p>History:</p> <p>https://wtmseagle.com/669/classroom-spotlight/unified-arts-classroom-corner-9-30-19/</p> <p>https://wtmseagle.com/1038/awards-and-accolades/the-wtms-green-team-wins-bronze-award-for-2019-2020-school-year/</p>



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	https://wtmseagle.com/1038/awards-and-accolades/the-wtms-green-team-wins-bronze-award-for-2019-2020-school-year/
End of growing season report	<p>Students created recipes and their evaluations based on the crops available in our garden for our food challenges.</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aCNGtBxTkTqpSwlwoRbwmmZs4M2re3Gl3jbT3mTLHgE/edit?usp=sharing</p>
Materials used to recruit participants/volunteers	
Website link	<p>https://middleschool.winslow-schools.com/</p> <p>https://middleschool.winslow-schools.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=341144&type=d&termREC_ID=&pREC_ID=635310</p>
Social media post/page (only one allowed)	