



## School Garden Report

### George L Catrambone Elementary School

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.

☒ 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: The GLC Garden is located in the courtyard of our school. It has been used for the past 7 seasons and holds a variety of vegetables and herbs that are grown for school Farmers Markets, student cooking classes, donation to food banks, and donation to families in need. The courtyard garden includes 4 raised cedar beds, 4 table raised beds, 8 recycled pallet beds and 5 large ground plots. We grow a variety of vegetables and herbs including but not limited to; eggplant, cucumber, tomatoes, radish, okra, watermelon, onions, beets, multiple varieties of pepper, squash, zucchini, carrots, kale, lettuce, string beans, mint, basil, parsley, oregano, chives, cilantro, rosemary, and thyme. Students and teachers prepare the gardens by pulling weeds for compost, turning over soil, covering with reusable fabric, and planting seedlings and seeds. Students tend to the gardens with teachers to water and pull weeds, harvest and count, weigh, package, and distribute produce and herbs. Before the pandemic, students in the summer camp program took care of the gardens in the summer. With current protocols in place, students are not allowed in the building to access the garden in the summer. It is our hope that this summer will go back to having camp in person and active in the gardens once more.



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- b. Location: We are located at 240 Park Avenue in Long Branch NJ. The garden is in the enclosed courtyard of the school and is accessible through the building. All GLC school students have access to the gardens through the building. It is used a learning center and natural classroom for many classes across all K-5 grade levels. See photos below.







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- c. Crops Grown: We grow a variety of vegetables and herbs including but not limited to; 3 varieties of eggplant, slicing and pickling cucumber, beefsteak, roma, plum and cherry tomatoes, yellow squash, green zucchini, broccoli, leeks, multiple varieties of peppers, carrots, cauliflower, lettuces, radish, beets, cabbage, string beans, yellow beans, wax beans, orka, watermelon, onions, scallions, turnip, brussels sprouts, swiss chard, pumpkins, mint, basil, chives, rosemary, parsley, cilantro, thyme, oregano, and more.
- d. Environmentally friendly practices used
  - i. Outdoor soil-based plots/raised garden beds (no pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides):
    - 1. We never add any type fertilizers or pesticides. We use neem oil when beetles begin to cover certain crops.
    - 2. We grow vegetables suited for NJ climate and our building is landscaped with native species
    - 2. Many of our plants encourage beneficial species like pollinating bees
    - 3. We are now producing our own compost with garden waste from the previous season.
    - 4. Water in early morning to reduce amount of water used and ensure maximum absorption without much evaporation
    - 5. We have 4 rain barrels to help with natural collection of rain water.
  - i. Hydroponic/Aquaponics systems (describe the sustainable/environmental friendly features or practices of the system):
- b. How the food produced from the garden is used (i.e. at the school, donated, etc.) Due to the pandemic, the food grown has not been able to be sold at the local farmers market. We have donated the fresh produce to local food pantry St. Vincent De Paul where a large number of our students receive weekly food contributions. In addition weekly bags of produce were sent home with our school free lunch pick up program (Sodexo) to add to their lunches each week. Additional food was sent home with families in need for sampling, cooking and to add organic produce to their meals. This year during back to school night, produce was given away for families to take home and prepare together.





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#### Donations:



#### Back to School Night Market





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**GLC GREENER** @greener\_glc · 58m  
🥕🥕 Carrots this unique deserve a name! Come visit us @ElementaryGlc Farmers Market for Back to School Night! Thank you Mrs. Zergebel's Class for the carrot harvest! @LBpublicschools @SJ\_Schools







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

The outdoor garden is used in a cooking and gardening class and in classrooms during the school year. During the school year students are using the gardens frequently for lessons in science and reading. The green team students spend a large amount of time learning about different plants and how they grow, maintaining the garden and learning the difference between weeds and plants, harvesting and using many math skills to wash, weigh package and present produce. You can see evidence of this in the pictures like those shown below.

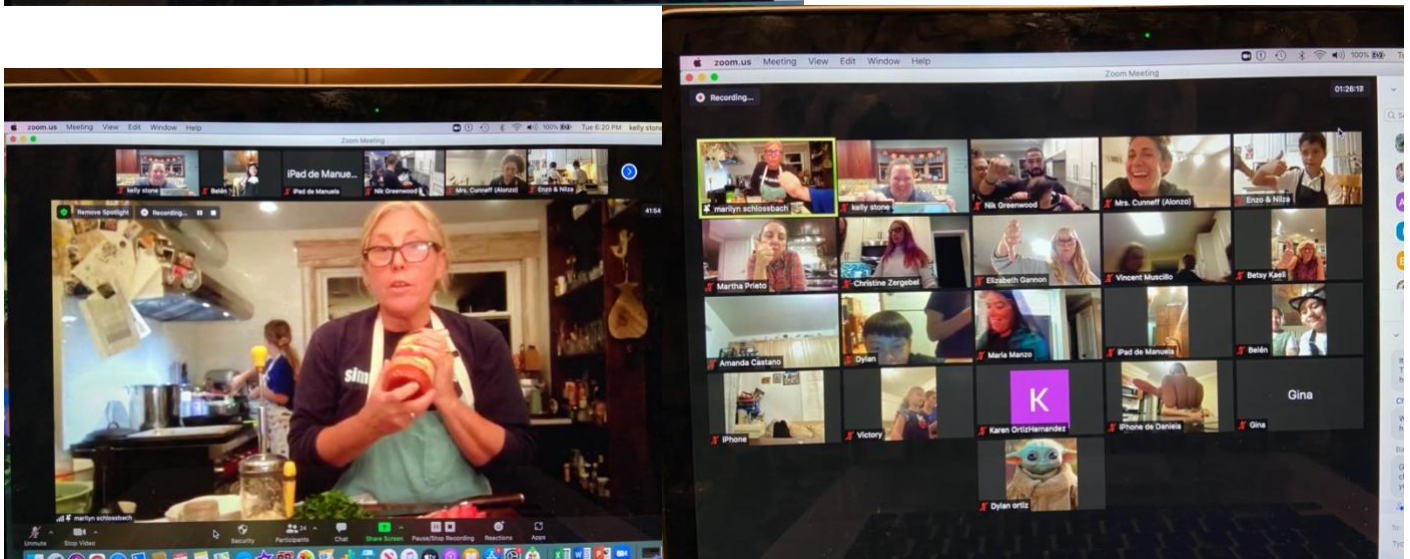
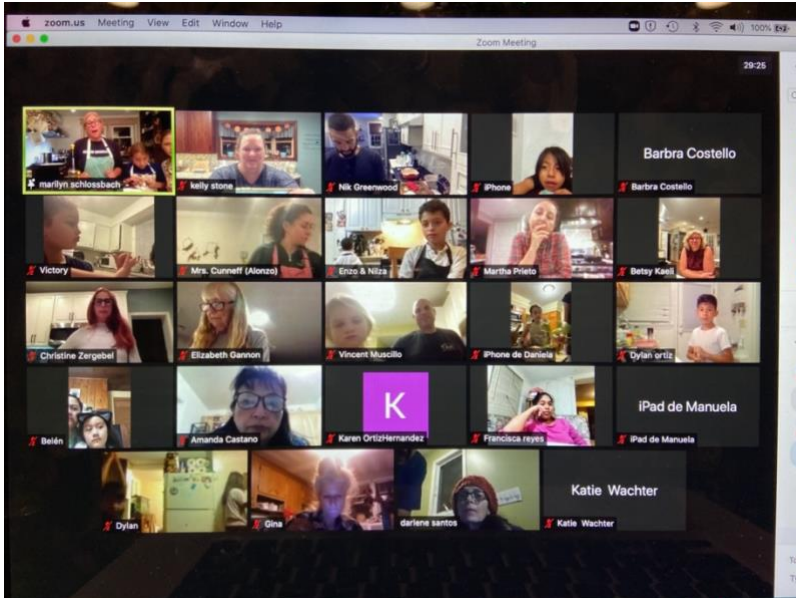


In addition we began a new program this year where produce is sent home for families to prepare a healthy and nutritious family meal with the help of a celebrity chef from the local community or local restaurant.



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3. Provide one piece of documentation showing how the garden is shared with the school community. All materials submitted should have a **date**, including the year, indicated on them.





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School*

Select one type of documentation below	Name of file uploaded and description of what it shows
Project newsletter article	
End of growing season report	End of Growing Season Report
Materials used to recruit participants/volunteers	Recruitment Information Recruitment for Members to sign up through Students Environmental After School Teams and in Beginning of the Year Staff Meetings, Emails and Faculty Meetings
Website link	District Garden Website Link <a href="https://sites.google.com/longbranch.k12.nj.us/gardens/gardens?authuser=0">https://sites.google.com/longbranch.k12.nj.us/gardens/gardens?authuser=0</a>
Social media post/page (only one allowed)	Social Media Announcements: Social media posts on twitter: @greener_glc See Pictures Below!



# School Garden Report

## George L Catrambone Elementary School

**GLC GREENER**  
 @greener\_glc

Getting special ingredients ready for tomorrow's Zoom Family Meal @ElementaryGlc with guest celebrity chef @MarilynSBach from Whitechapel Projects in Long Branch!

LBPS  
 1:47 PM · 11/8/21 · Twitter for iPhone

View Tweet activity  
 1 Retweet 13 Likes

Add another Tweet

**GLC GREENER**  
 @greener\_glc

Carrots this unique deserve a name! Come visit us @ElementaryGlc Farmers Market for Back to School Night! Thank you Mrs. Zergebel's Class for the carrot harvest! @LBpublicschools @SJ\_Schools

2:28 PM · 9/22/21 · Twitter for iPhone

View Tweet activity

Add another Tweet

**GLC GREENER**  
 @greener\_glc

Beautiful harvest @ElementaryGlc today! Don't forget to stop by the Middle School to grab your bag from @LBFoodService21! @LBpublicschools #GreenWaveGreener

Add another Tweet

**GLC GREENER**  
 @greener\_glc

Plenty to be thankful for in today's @ElementaryGlc harvest! Onions, scallions, garlic are just a few of the many treats shared through @LBFoodService21! @LBpublicschools

11:29 AM · 8/4/21 · Twitter for iPhone

View Tweet activity  
 6 Retweets 24 Likes

Add another Tweet





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#### 7. 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.

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

#### 8. Please describe the following information on the garden, including:

- d. History: Our hydroponic garden is located inside our school and is mobile to travel for lessons or display placement for students to see and learn from. We have 2 gardens 1 located in the STEM classroom 117 and on larger one in the main lobby for all students and classes to interact with. It has been used for the past 5-6 years and holds a variety of lettuces and herbs that are grown for students and families, donation to food banks, and donation to families in need. The Large one holds approximately 80 pods or growing medium the smaller one holds 32 pods. We grow a variety of lettuces and herbs including but not limited to; kale, spinach, lettuces like romaine, bib and butter crunch, swiss chard, and arugula. We grow basil, parsley, cilantro, and have tried with little success cucumbers and watermelon. Students and teachers prepare the medium by planting seeds in growing trays for approximately 2 weeks before planting in the mobile garden unit. Students tend to the mobile gardens with teacher to add water and organic nutrients as needed. The also count, weigh, package, and distribute produce and herbs.
- e. Location: Our hydroponic garden is located inside our school and is mobile to travel for lessons or display placement for students to see and learn from. All GLC school students have access to the mobile garden i the building as it is on wheels. It is used a learning center and natural classroom for many classes across all 1-5 grade levels. It is help in the main lobby as a base and the smaller one remains in STEM classroom 117.
- f. Crops Grown: We grow a variety of lettuces and herbs including but not limited to; kale, spinach, lettuces like romaine, bib and butter crunch, swiss chard, and arugula. We grow basil, parsley, cilantro, and have tried with little success cucumbers and watermelon. Our main growing herb is basil.
- g. Environmentally friendly practices used
  - i. Outdoor soil-based plots/raised garden beds (no pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides):



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1. We never add any type fertilizers or pesticides
2. We grow vegetables suited for NJ climate and our building is landscaped with native species
3. We use led grow lights to minimize the amount of electricity needed to grow
4. Our watering pump is on a timer to reduce the amount of time in use each day reducing our carbon footprint

- ii. Hydroponic/Aquaponics systems (describe the sustainable/environmental friendly features or practices of the system):

The aero/hydroponic garden is used in classrooms during the school year. Students are using the Hydroponic/aeroponic gardens frequently to measure growth, record water amount measure and provide nutrients and understand the growing process and life cycle of the plants we grow.

- h. How the food produced from the garden is used (i.e. at the school, donated, etc.)

The food produced by this garden is sent home with students for donations to families as well as cooking lessons for the students to engage in during the evening hours with their families.

- 9. Provide one piece of documentation showing how the garden is shared with the school community. All materials submitted should have a **date, including the year**, indicated on them.**

Select one type of documentation below	Name of file uploaded and description of what it shows
Project newsletter article	
End of growing season report	End of Growing Season Report
Materials used to recruit participants/volunteers	Recruitment Information





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Select one type of documentation below	Name of file uploaded and description of what it shows
	Recruitment for Members to sign up through Students Environmental After School Teams and in Beginning of the Year Staff Meetings, Emails and Faculty Meetings
Website link	District Garden Website Link <a href="https://sites.google.com/longbranch.k12.nj.us/gardens/gardens?authuser=0">https://sites.google.com/longbranch.k12.nj.us/gardens/gardens?authuser=0</a>
Social media post/page (only one allowed)	Social Media Announcements: Social media posts on twitter: @greener_glc See Pictures Below!



Bags packed and headed into a fantastic weekend!



## School Garden Report

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5:04 ↗



**Tweet**



**GLC GREENER**

@greener\_glc



🌱 Our first harvest of aeroponic basil of the year going home to some happy students @ElementaryGlc @LBpublicschools



12:15 PM · 9/29/21 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

||| [View Tweet activity](#)

**10** Likes

Add another Tweet





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