

# Home Connections

## Kansas School Gardens Curriculum

### What's Growing On?

Our school has a garden project! Use family letters, newsletters, and signs to inform families about what's "growing on" with the garden project. You can do this in a paper format or electronically. A garden blog is a good place to share information. Include students in the preparation of the garden newsletter or blog.

Set expectations and boundaries for families. Let them know your garden guidelines.

Gardening is not clean work. Please remember to send your kids in their work clothes on Thursdays for our garden time.



### All in the Family—Hosting Family Events

Families can provide lots of assistance in the garden when there is big work to be done! Host "work bees" to prepare the garden plot in the spring, ask for volunteers with weekend or summer work that needs to be done, hold a garden celebration or fall harvest festival to educate about the garden project or get assistance with a big harvest.

Additional ideas for family and community events are discussed in other lessons.

Make sure that expectations are clear for families. Be clear what their role is for the event (what they can pick, what is to be left, etc). Provide plenty of "touch, smell, taste, hear, and do" activities.

### We're Going Green—Green Beans!

Kids are more likely to taste new foods, especially vegetables when they have grown or picked them. Encourage this by having a tasting party. This can even be one of your family events.

### Class Garden Cookbook:

Have students bring recipes from home or choose from the recipes prepared from the garden to make a class (or school) cookbook from the garden. All recipes must have at least one ingredient that was grown in the garden. You can include pictures and stories from the garden as well.

Take it on the road...

Plan field trips to local farms, greenhouses, orchards, and even grocery stores. Invite families to join or visit one of these places on their own.



### Don't Be Afraid to Ask

Include a garden wishlist in every newsletter that goes to families. This may include a need for a weekly weeder volunteer, some new hand trowels, a hose, or even a weekend waterer during a particularly hot spell.

**Parents: Please send an old towel with your student.  
We use these as mats to read upon when outside**