OKEMOS

Okemos Public Schools
Board of Education Meeting

Monday, November 9, 20206

Examples of Excellence in our Okemos Schools

4th Grade

Each year, the 4th Grades (HIA, BW, COR, OPM) participate in an experiential learning at the MSU Children's Garden. These trips are funded by the Okemos Education Foundation (OEF).

We are grateful for their support in creating learning opportunities for excellence.

OKEMOS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The MSU Children's Garden presents...

OPERATION GO GREEN



Students as Scientists



Extended Experiments



Meaningful Learning



Community Connections

Students as Scientists

Students don't just learn about science; they actively DO science! They design experiments, make observations, collect data, and draw conclusions. From extracting strawberry DNA, to visiting MSU greenhouses, or identifying plants using scientific classification tools, students experience the excitement of scientific discovery. They are then able to bring this knowledge back to the classroom.

- **Hands-On Scientific Investigations**
- **Asking Questions & Testing Ideas**
- **Observing, Analyzing & Drawing Conclusions**
- **Experiencing Real Scientific Discoveries**







Extended Experiments

Three visits throughout the fall allow students to participate in an ongoing scientific investigation. Students design an experiment to grow and compare six varieties of lettuce, observing and measuring their growth during each visit before evaluating and tasting the results. They experience the scientific process from developing a question to analyzing results and considering how to avoid bias.

- **Three Connected Learning Experiences**
- **Comparing Six Varieties of Lettuce**
- **Measuring & Documenting Plant Growth**
- **Evaluating Results & Identifying Bias**







Meaningful Learning

The garden brings fourth-grade science standards to life through hands-on experiences and real-world connections. Students explore photosynthesis, plant adaptations, plant structures, and the role of plants in our ecosystem. They also discover how plants are part of everyday life in unexpected ways. Most surprising for some is to learn plants make up our clothes, toothpaste, and medicine.

- **Connections to Fourth-Grade Science Standards**
- **Exploring Plant Structures & Adaptations**
- **Discovering Plants in Everyday Products**
- **Connecting Science to the World Around Us**







Community Connections

For over a decade, Hiawatha fourth graders have partnered with MSU's 4-H Children's Gardens for this exceptional learning experience. Students learn directly from MSU professors and horticulture experts who share their knowledge and passion for plants. This unique, interactive learning environment is made possible through the support of the Okemos Education Foundation.

- **Over a Decade of Community Partnership**
- **Learning from MSU Horticulture Experts**
- **Exploring an Interactive, Kid-Focused Garden**
- **OEF-Funded Experiences for All Fourth Graders**


















