

Middletown Public Schools' Farm-to-School Program

November 2024 | BOE Meeting



Middletown Public Schools
Cultivating the Brilliance in Each Student



What is Farm-to-School & Why is it important to us?

- Connection to Local Food
- Education and Engagement



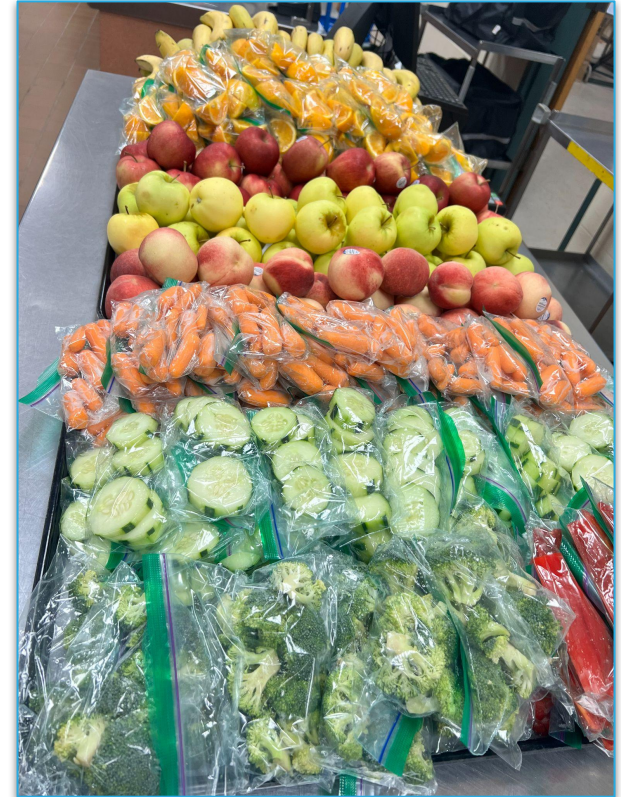
MPS Farm-to-School History

- **2021-2022 SY: Research Phase**
 - Macdonough joined the New England Farm to School Institute, new Head of Food Services
 - Micro Purchasing through local food hubs for taste tests
- **2022-2023 SY: Initial Phase**
 - Small Purchasing Threshold Procurement with Cold Spring Farm
 - Composting Integration
 - Local Foods Harvest of the Month Introduction
 - FoodCorps in 4 Schools
 - Micro Purchasing from local food hubs
 - CTG4CTK Grant for 4th graders
- **2023-2024 SY: Continuation of Initial Phase**
 - CTG4CTK Grant for 5th grade field trips
 - Continuation of successes from previous year
 - 3 Edible School Gardens (two after school garden/cooking clubs)
 - Reusable Serving Ware Grant
 - MPS named Connecticut Farm to School Champion by the CT Farm to School Collaborative
 - Vo-Ag Field Trip CTG4CTK Grant



MPS Farm-to-School History Continued

- **2024-2025: Full Implementation**
 - CTG4CTK Kick Off Event for State of CT
 - Continuation of successes/efforts from previous years
 - Local Food Purchasing from 10 Farms with more in progress
 - Beman Farm to School Institute-
 - Hydroponics and soon coming school gardens
 - 3 After School Cooking Clubs, incorporating local foods
 - MPS Nominated to begin the EatReal Certification Process
 - Sustainability Report: tinyurl.com/MPSF2SReport



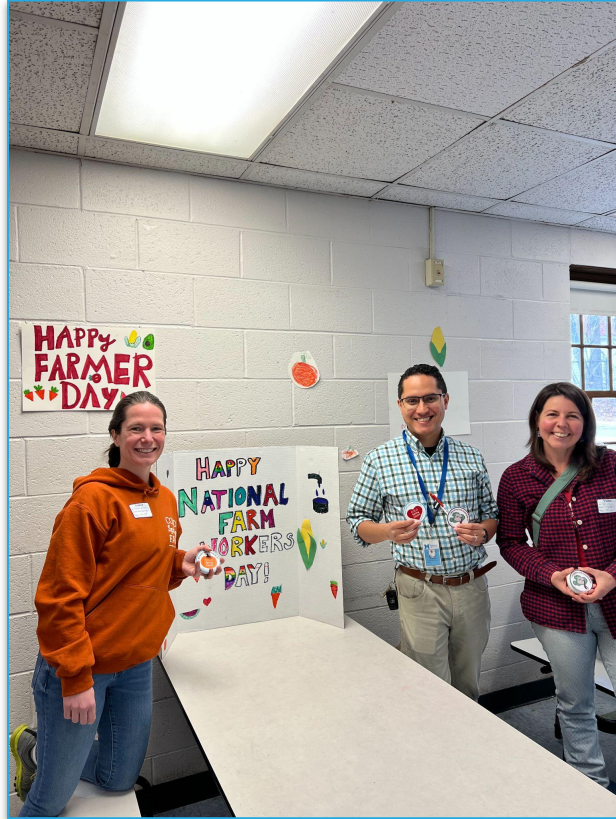
Farm-to-School Pictures Over the Years



2022 Local Foods Taste Test for Macdonough Students joined by CSDE, Vo-Ag, and Put Local on Your Tray.



Farm-to-School Pictures Over the Years

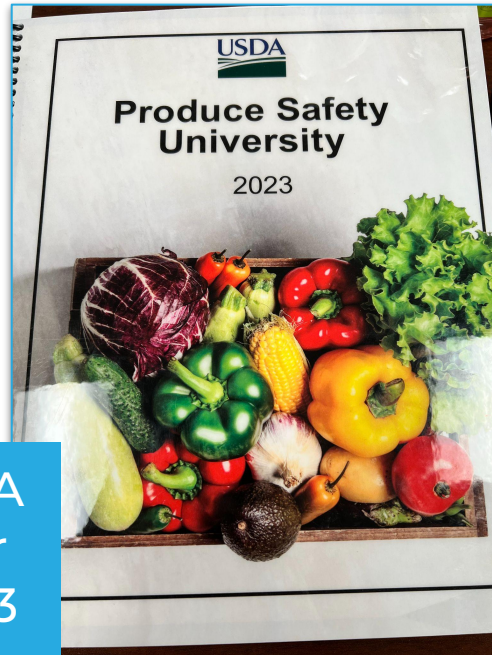


2023 National Farmer Day Local Food Taste Test at Macdonough

Farm-to-School Pictures Over the Years



First Farm to School Field Trip:
Planting Seeds May 2023



Randall Mel attends the USDA
Produce Safety University for
Local Foods in D.C. April 2023



LOCAL + FRESH
BLUEBERRIES!!
FROM **DONDERO ORCHARDS!!**
TRY A **SMOOTHIE** TO
WIN A PRIZE!

ELOTE CORN: 
Locally grown corn with a
mayo and sour cream mixture,
topped with parmesan cheese
and cajun seasoning!



Fall 2023 Local
Food Taste Tests
at Various
Schools

WE ARE
CELEBRATING...
**HISPANIC
HERITAGE
MONTH!** 
September 15th - October 15th!!!
ELOTE 



5th Grade Field Trip Fall 2023: The students returned to the farm to harvest the carrots & garlic they planted as 4th graders. Visited by CSDE and the USDA; followed by our Community Local Foods Dinner (carrot themed in honor of our students' work)

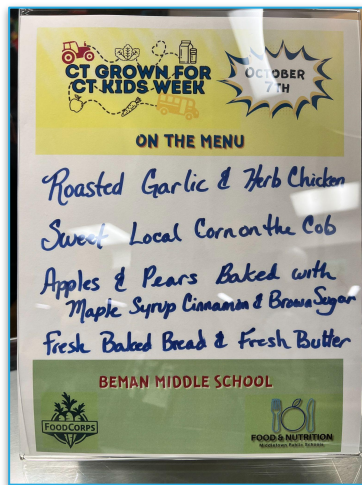
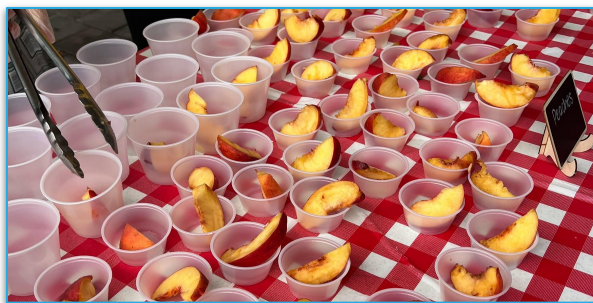
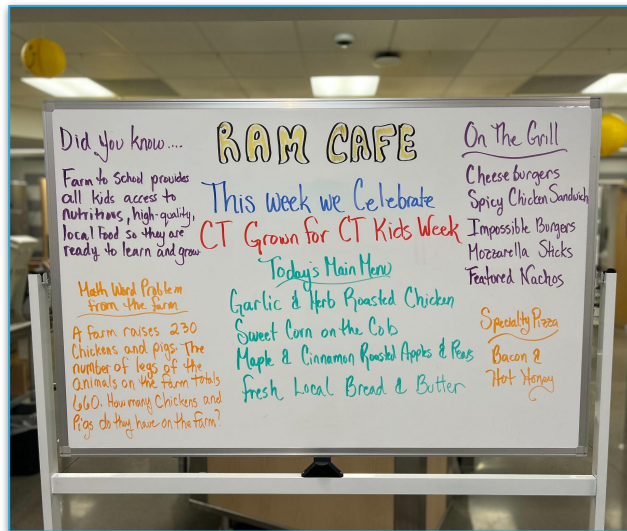




Vo-Ag Field trip to help plant a variety of squash and other crops in Spring of 2024

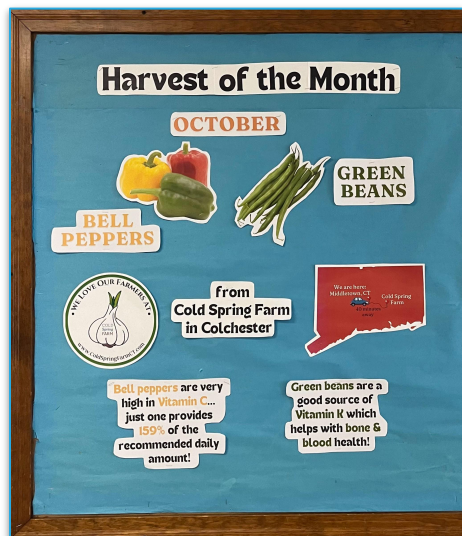


Eggplant	Gilantro	Cherry Tomato	Kale	Garlic	Corn	Radishes
Berjenjena	Tomato Cherry	Cal Buzarda	Ajo	Mafe	Rabanos	
Parsley	Parsley	Lettuce	Sage	Parsley	Peppers	Carrots
Perejil	Perejil	Lechuga	Salsa	Perilla	Zanahorias	
Cantalupe	Dill	Carrots	Salsa	Angula	Butter	Cucumbers
Cantalupe	Eneldo	Zanahorias	Salsa	Alisiva	Manteca	Perinas
Spaghetti Squash	Basil	Bok Choi	Garlic	Ajo	Apples	Chickpea
Calabaza Esquinosa	Albahaca	Peperoncino	Peppers	Lechuga	Bread	Pears
Tomatoes	Peaches	Scallions	Peppers	Lechuga	Pan	Pears
Tomatoes	Duraznos	Escalonia	Pimentas	Lechuga	Pan	Pears
Basil	Albahaca	Thyme	Tomillo	Cal Buzarda		



CTG4CTK Week Kick Off Event at Beman featuring over 10 local farms and culturally diverse recipes Fall 2024





Spencer Elementary Harvest of the Month Taste Tests

Fall 2024 Beman Middle School Hydroponics Project



What's next?

- Applied for another CTG4CTK Grant to focus on culinary/scratch cooking training and create a local foods recipe guide
 - Also includes additional school gardens, hydroponic growing, and after school cooking/nutrition clubs
- Partnering with more local farms including small growers and producers (including a Beman teacher!)
- EatReal Certification!
 - If obtained, MPS will be the first district in New England to obtain this certification showing our commitment to nutritious foods based on this agencies rigorous standards

