

MRA Roots of Responsibility Garden Draft

Purpose:

Garden/Ecosystem/Science:

- Bring kids closer to food/nature
- Enrich bodies and minds
- Cultivation of seeds to produce
- Experiencing new foods
- Education of how things grow/are interrelated

Community:

- Empower kids
- Leadership
- Connect all of us to each other

The Vision of the Roots Garden is to:

Create a sense of wonder through...

- Careful observation and questioning
- The use of scientific tools such as microscopes, magnifiers, science notebooks,
- Artistic and literary expression
- Connections with school and class themes

Participate together in purposeful work by...

- The care of the garden throughout the school
- The use of real tools
- Recognizing seasonality/life cycles/cause and effect
- Hard work

Celebrate as a community with...

- Appreciation for what we have collaboratively accomplished
- Sharing
- Reflection and the creation of plans/dreams for the next time

At MRA each classroom participates in the creation and care of the Roots Garden. At this time the physical definition of the space consists of the vegetable garden, the compost bins, bees and the pollinator garden, and the sitting area in the garden space. Our Garden Coordinator teaches garden classes in cooperation with the general education teachers. The coordinator also assists teachers with any additional garden studies they want to take on. For further information about the description of the Garden Coordinator refer to the MRA definition of the job below.

Garden Objectives by Class:

Trillium: Study the garden through observations and making connections in the garden. 20 min 1x/week with IA

- Five senses
- How to be in the garden space
- Similarities and differences
- Art

Huckleberries: Study the garden through scientific note taking. 30 min 1x/week

- Essential elements for life/season cycles
- Pollinator garden/bees

Clarkia: Study the garden through the use of the scientific method. 45 min 1x/week

- Making predictions and drawing conclusions
- Introduction to healthy eating
- Compost/Red wiggler

Alders: Study the garden through a deeper exploration of the scientific method and sustainability, specifically through water, permaculture and bioswales. 45 min 1x/week

- Ecosystems, sustainability, permaculture, irrigation, soil
- Bioswales, sand, rain water use, invasive species

Cedars: Study the garden through electives such as cooking and nutrition and Garden TA. 45 min 2x/week

- Cooking
- Food handlers cards
- Knife skills
- Machinery of the kitchen
- Stewardship

With the exception of the Cedars elective class, the garden curriculum will be taught once a week September through November and then it will be picked back up in February.

Roots of Responsibility Day

The Garden Coordinator works with the Alders teachers and students to run Roots of Responsibility Day.

Roots Vision Statement:

Roots of Responsibility Day is a yearly celebration for the MRA community. Roots Day grew out of our desire to acknowledge and honor the hard work and dedication of our initial garden leadership group. Our day encompasses learning through our garden and through service to our school and community. Students will be engaged in learning during their time through our various rotations. They will be asked to contribute to their school by performing various service projects with their class. By the end of the day, each MRA member will know that our garden is a focal point of the school; one that helps us become independent and confident life-long learners and one that can and will impact our greater 8

Roots of Responsibility Day is generally held on the third Friday of October. The final harvest from the garden has been picked, the weather is changing, and it is time to put our garden and grounds to bed for the winter season. The entire day is dedicated for all of the MRA community to gather together and participate in a series of presentations facilitated by the Alders along with a variety of service projects.

Sample Schedule:

- 8:00 to 8:40 All Students in class, soft start and morning meeting to set up for a successful day
- 8:15 to 8:40 Parent orientation for the day
- 1:45 – 2:15 Bonfire
- 2:15 – 3:00 Classroom, Food, Soft Landing

Trillium, Huckleberry and Clarkia are broken into mixed age groups of 20 with 2 adults. Station are facilitated by 4 Alders and include Cedar press, Pumpkin carving, Pumpkin seeds, Popcorn

- 8:45 – 9:00 Station 1
- 9:05 – 9:20 Station 2
- 9:25 – 9:40 Station 3
- 9:45 – 10:00 Station 4
- 10:00 – 10:15 Snack time
- 10:20 – 10:35 Station 5
- 10:40 – 10:55 Station 6
- 11:00 – 11:30 Classroom Reflections
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch, Recess, Circle to prep for afternoon
- 12:30 – 1:30 Service projects
 - Trillium chicken coop and back area clean up
 - Huckleberry Pollinator Garden
 - Clarkia trail/berms/?

Alders:

- 8:45 – 10:55 Half run stations and half put the garden to bed
- 11:00 – 11:30 Clean up

- 11:30 – 12:15 Lunch and Recess
- 12:15 – 12:30 Reflect on the morning and prep for afternoon
- 12:30 – 1:30 clean up around modular etc.

Cedars:

- 8:45 – 10:55 Some help with management of morning groups, elective kids make pumpkin break, clean up around Quonset and classroom, begin work on legacy project
- 11:00 – 11:30 help with clean up
- 11:30 – 12:15 Lunch and Recess
- 12:15 – 12:30 Reflect and prep for afternoon
- 12:30 – 1:30 Legacy project work?

Garden Coordinator:

- Is a Master Gardener or is working on becoming one
- Teaches Garden classes to all students at MRA
- Works with the Alders teachers to coordinate Roots of Responsibility Day
- Assists teachers in use of the garden space outside of their scheduled class time
- Assists the Clarkia classrooms with management of the compost bins
- Co-Leads the MRA student-led PlaySpace projects with the Executive Director (ED)
- Sits on the PlaySpace Committee
- Sits on the Grounds Committee or works with the Grounds Committee to coordinate grounds maintenance and to ensure communication between the Garden, PlaySpace and Grounds.
- Attends Garden workshops appropriate to the position and with approval from the ED
- Co-leads the Roots of Responsibility Leadership group
- Coordinates parents/families for summer garden maintenance
- Works with the MRA maintenance person to ensure proper care and upkeep of garden equipment including mower and rototiller, sprinkler system, etc.
- Inventories tools, seeds, etc. and replaces as needed with the approval of the ED
- Actively supports MRA fundraisers that support the garden, including but not limited to: Wreath/Poinsettia Sale, Plant Sale
- Is on a 12 month contract for the garden, meaning the coordinator works on garden maintenance year round
- Spends 20 to 25 hours/week on the garden program during school hours in the fall and spring; 10 to 15 hours/week during the winter; 10 hours/week during the summer (Hours are approximate and may give some here and there)