

**Framingham State University  
Growing Your School Garden  
Spring 2011 Syllabus**

**Course Description:**

A school gardening course for teachers and school nutrition directors, who are already involved with at least one school gardening initiative and wish to expand. Participants will evaluate their current school gardening program and apply resources to allow for expansion. Emphasis will be on connecting gardening lessons to state curriculum frameworks and/or nutrition education in the classroom, as well as sharing of best practices and outcomes. Prerequisite: PRDV 73522 *School Gardening 101* or approval by instructor, verifying the implementation of at least one school gardening lesson or school garden activity.

All students will demonstrate foundation knowledge of school gardening terminology by successfully completing the Gardening Terminology Quiz (achieving at least 90% accuracy) by the end of week one. Students who successfully completed the quiz during the course, PRDV 73522 *School Gardening 101*, are exempt.

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Explore and evaluate their school gardening program and identify areas to expand.
2. Investigate resources for funding and sustaining your school gardening program.
3. Investigate, evaluate and consider feasible gardening lessons and activities.
4. Create an outline and present a gardening proposal to grow your school garden.

**Texts and Materials:**

Online readings and resources include, but are not limited to:

**JSI Resource Center: Gardening**

<http://delicious.com/jsireflib/bundle:Gardening?page=1>

**Gardens for Learning Guidebook**

<http://www.cs.gn.org/images/pdf/GFLBook.pdf>

**TEAM Nutrition: Gardening with Children**

[http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/nal\\_display/index.php?info\\_center=14&tax\\_level=2&tax\\_subject=526&level3\\_id=0&level4\\_id=0&level5\\_id=0&topic\\_id=2112&&placement\\_default=0](http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=14&tax_level=2&tax_subject=526&level3_id=0&level4_id=0&level5_id=0&topic_id=2112&&placement_default=0)

**Course Requirements:**

Each week students will review and evaluate online resources, actively participation in class discussions and complete of assignments according to established due dates.

**Course Expectations:**

Participants are expected to work online each week to complete assignments by the due date. This is NOT a self-paced course. Please allow 4-6 hours/week to do the work for the first three weeks and 8-10 hours in the last week. Active participation and constructive peer-to-peer feedback in the online Bb forums and blog tool is essential for the course to run smooth and effectively. Late assignments interfere with the online community learning and will be graded accordingly.

<b>Grading Criteria:</b> Total points earned / possible total points= percentage. Letter grade based on FSU official grading scale.	
Activity/Assignment	Possible Points
Week 1 Student Introductions	5
Week 1 Class Discussion	10
Week 2 Funding and Sustainability Investigation	10
Week 2 Class Discussion	10
Week 3 Explore and Evaluate Lessons and Activities	10
Week 3 Class Discussion and Proposal Outline	10
Week 4 Create Proposal	10
Week 4 Presentation and Class Discussion	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>75 points</b>

**Course Outline:****Week 1: EXPLORE YOUR SCHOOL GARDEN**

Learning Objective: To explore and evaluate your school gardening program and identify areas to expand.

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

An introductory activity to build the online community; provides each student the opportunity to introduce themselves and meet their classmates and instructor.

**2. Class Discussion**

Explore and describe the gardening activities that currently take place in your school. Consider the following questions in your investigation: what are the short and long term goals of your school garden, who is involved with the program (teachers, school nutrition, students (grade and/or specific classroom), etc), where does gardening take place, do activities connect with curriculum frameworks and/or nutrition education goals, are other gardening activities taking place across your district, how can the district share best practices among schools, what is your vision for growing your school gardening program.

## **Week 2: FUNDING AND SUSTAINING YOUR GARDEN**

Learning Objective: To investigate resources for funding and sustaining your school gardening program.

### **1. Funding and Sustainability Investigation**

Investigate resources for funding and sustaining your school gardening program. Students will identify three potential funding sources and review application steps and criteria; name three steps to assure sustainability within your school garden.

### **2. Class Discussion**

Share the funding resources with class, including a summary of criteria and application steps and web address. Share your sustainability ideas and any strategies currently utilized within your school to keep your program running.

## **Week 3: EXPLORE, EVALUATE AND PROPOSE**

Learning Objectives: To investigate, evaluate and consider feasible gardening lessons and activities. Create an outline for a gardening proposal to grow your school garden.

### **1. Explore and Evaluate Lessons and Activities**

Investigate and evaluate online school gardening lessons and activities using the course resources and select 3 gardening lessons and/or activities appropriate for your school, as well as those which align with curriculum frameworks.

### **2. Class Discussion and Proposal Outline**

Share evaluations and proposal; rank gardening lessons and/or activities based on feasibility of incorporating within school. Share your gardening proposal outline.

## **Week 4: PROPOSAL TO GROW YOUR SCHOOL GARDEN**

Learning Objectives: Create and present one gardening initiative and implementation plan to grow your school garden program.

### **1. Create Proposal**

Apply resources to create a plan to grow your gardening program, including how to implement and sustain the program; proposal will describe the lesson including grade level, goals, objectives, activities and tools to evaluate learning objectives, connection to curriculum frameworks, nutrition education and long term school gardening goals.

### **2. Presentation and Class Discussion**

Present your final proposal to grow your school gardening program, using a PowerPoint slide show. The goal is that you will present this proposal with your school administrator, whether it be your principal, superintendent, or whomever you require support from to move forward.