

## FRESH from the Garden

### Message from Amy & Doug

There has never been a better time to consider teaching outside. With the need for social distancing and many schools utilizing a hybrid teaching model, outdoor spaces can offer peace of mind as well as numerous learning benefits. However, teaching outside can also present some challenges. Here are just a few tips:



- Most of students' time spent outside while at school is at recess, so don't be surprised if the first time you take your students outside they are a bit rambunctious. Set clear expectations before going outside and remind students that this is class, not recess.
- Allow a few minutes for exploration before expecting students to focus on the lesson.
- Set clear boundaries where students are allowed to be.
- Have a call back signal when you want them to return to you or get their attention. (I use a wolf call - Go Wolfpack!)
- Don't expect your first attempt to be perfect, this is a learning curve for all. Stick with it and you may find yourself wondering why you haven't done this sooner.

If you are interested in finding more ways to utilize the outdoor classroom or would like to create some outdoor learning spaces, feel free to reach out. We are here to help. We are also available to work one on one with teachers in their garden space, masked and socially distanced, of course.



This spring and summer we filmed videos to take the place of in-person lessons. You can find the videos on our STEM website or all in one [playlist](#) (STEM To-Go) on the Plants for Human Health Institute YouTube channel. You are welcome to use any of these videos with students. Some are how-to demonstrations, some are stand-alone lessons, and some are guided experiments with the intention of the viewer following step-by-step instructions while they watch. Videos currently available are:



- [Flower Dissection](#)
- [Pollination](#)
- [Bolting Kale](#)
- [Planting Sweet Potatoes](#)
- [Strawberry DNA Extraction](#)

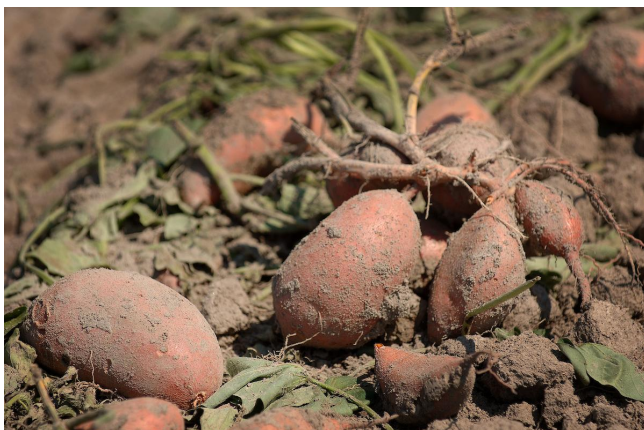
We are also working with the Cabarrus County School System to develop virtual lessons that they can deploy through their Learning Management System. Together, we have identified the following topics, standards and grade levels for future videos. Each video will include a supplemental, adaptable viewing guide with questions to demonstrate student competency.

- 1st grade: Observing Seeds and Growing Seeds (1.L.1, 1.L.2)
- 2nd grade: Evolution and Genetics (2.L.1, 2.L.2)
- 3rd grade: Soil Layers, Plant Parts (3.L.2)
- 4th grade: Molecular Biology (4.L.2) (Vitamins, minerals, food vs nonfood)
- 5th grade: Genetics and Inheritance (5.L.3)
- 6th grade: Flower Dissection and Pollination (6.L.1)

We've got some more ideas for additional virtual lessons and how-to videos, including seed dissection, growing microgreens, building a raised bed, planting seeds, and using a light bank. If there is a specific virtual lesson that you'd like to see us develop, just complete this [request form](#).



## Sweet Potatoes in the Home Stretch



If you planted sweet potatoes in late May or early June, they will be ready to harvest in early- to mid-September. Look for harvest tips in our September FRESH newsletter. Review the lesson plan [Harvest Math](#) for some ideas on exploring math concepts with your harvested produce.



# Life Lab Hosts Webinars

In 2012, Life Lab co-founded the School Garden Support Organization Network, whose purpose is to create peer-to-peer learning opportunities among school gardeners. During these constantly shifting times, there is a great need to learn from one another.

Check out their latest webinars. Note: the times listed are Eastern Time; with Life Lab located in California, the times on the registration forms linked below are Pacific Time.



## [Garden Educator Distance Teaching & Learning](#)

Wednesday, August 26 • 2 - 3:15 pm

## [COVID-Friendly Outdoor Classroom Infrastructure Design](#)

Wednesday, September 2 • 2 - 3:15 pm

## [Bringing Social Emotional Learning & Mindfulness Education to Your Work](#)

Wednesday, September 9 • 2 - 3:15 pm

**Find more School Garden Resources on our website:**

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**Questions? Contact us!**

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