

Grant: Budding Botanists

Recipient: Shannon Petty

I am writing to provide a summary of the grant I received and how it has been effective. The grant I received was used to purchase materials to start a sensory garden and to participate in a Tomatosphere seed germination investigation.

The Tomatosphere investigation provided many opportunities for the students to practice their inquiry skills and develop a better understanding of the nature of science. They experienced numerous hands on activities with the plants. I believe this seed germination investigation experience heightened my students interest in science.

The Sensory Garden Project is still ongoing in its implementation and students have been involved in every step. Students helped plan the overall design of the garden and what plants were to be planted. Students did research on each plant to determine its needs. This project has allowed students to truly get their hands dirty and they have loved it. So many different learning opportunities were present that aligned with curriculum standards. As seen by the pictures submitted, students were very engaged. Digging, raking, preparing and taking care of the raised beds were just a few things that they were involved in. The garden project has not only been educationally rewarding but exciting and just plain fun. Future projects are being planned to incorporate more outdoor STEM learning spaces. The opportunities for outdoor hands on learning beyond the classroom are endless.

Thank you so much for the generous support which allowed the opportunity to implement this project at DES.

[Project Pictures](#)