

2016's Rocket Extra students left a lasting mark on our school. One of the most obvious ways was with the creation of a garden in our courtyard this year. They started by growing the plant of their choice indoors. Then, as the plants grew larger and the weather got warmer, they dug out the garden and tilled the soil. Finally, they transplanted our crops, added a wall, and watched the plants grow. The blooms have formed so hopefully we will have an update of a harvest in the future. (If the bunny stays away 😊)

Check below for updates*



As of June 7, I am pleased to announce that we have our first tomatoes starting to grow! Logan's beans are showing great promise also. Ian's marigold is thriving and Saylor's dahlia is taking off as well. We also may have sunflowers before long by the looks of it. Tune in for more updates throughout the summer.



Well, the warm weather is really helping the garden to grow. As of June 13, green beans have already formed and are a week or so away from being ready to be harvested. The tomatoes have also taken a giant step forward. The sunflowers are up to about 3 feet in height.



On June 15, the first crops (Logan's green beans) were picked. Congratulations Logan! I look forward to the promised green bean casserole. There are also currently 8-10 tomatoes growing. All of the marigolds have rebloomed and Leah's flowers have really started to grow.

I am also very proud to report that just this week a proposal for the garden that I wrote on DonorsChoose at the end of the school year was fully funded and so, due to those generous donations, we now have some wonderful garden tools and supplies such as real fencing, a netting to keep birds out, a strawberry plant, and a hummingbird feeder among many others. If any Rocket Extra students are interested in picking and taking any of the vegetables home, helping with watering the plants a day or two while I'm on vacation, or helping with the new goodies over the summer please email me.





The garden's early days



Compare the sunflowers to the picture above

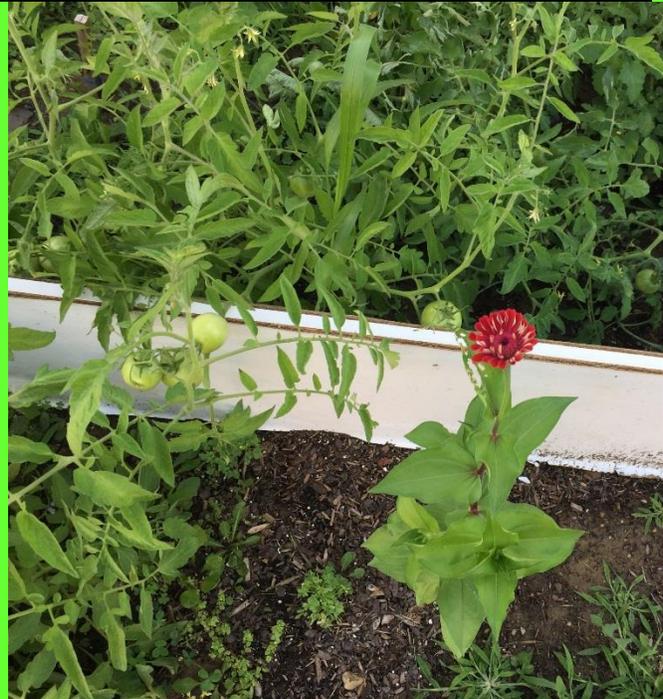


It has been a while since the last update. As of July 9, there are a TON of tomatoes growing and some are turning red. Picking time is very near. I could also use some student help using the supplies from the grant this summer. If interested please email me. Finally, Joe's watermelon plant has blossoms on it, Saylor's dahlia is set to open up its flower for the first time this week, the marigolds are in full bloom again, and the tallest sunflowers are about six feet tall. So a lot has been happening since the last update.

Saylor's dahlia



On July 14, the first of the tomatoes were picked! There is nothing like the taste of freshly grown produce. They taste great! If you want to pick some of your own please contact me. You are more than welcome to, there are plenty left. The rabbit is lurking very nearby the crops. It went running away from the plants outside of the fence when I came to pick some of them. Some of the sunflower plants are now taller than me and the flower on one is starting to form. Saylor's dahlia has fully bloomed, and it looks awesome. The beans seemed to have stopped producing as of now, and I haven't seen a watermelon start to form after the blooms at the end of June.





Rabbit Hangout



Well, it's August 4, and it's been a while. While I took my vacation, the garden did not. It was growing like crazy. Upon my return, I was able to pick 18 tomatoes and still leave quite a few left unpicked. The sunflowers are towering and blooming. The dahlias are also looking impressive, and the beans have returned. This update also brings with it the first sighting of at least three small watermelons and maybe more. While the plants are growing like crazy, so are the weeds. I can't wait to use our donated weed mat to eliminate this problem in the future. Happy summer!



Look how tall the sunflower plants are!



August 10 was an exciting day because that was the day some of our students got to take home items from the garden that they worked so hard to begin. I want to thank them for coming in and braving the heat and helping to put up our new fence and hummingbird feeder. They look great! A little after most of them left, Ian and I got to see a very cool site. A hummingbird was feeding on Saylor's dahlia. It was awesome! I only wish I could have gotten a picture of it. Again, it was a fun day.



