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Discovering Community
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Discovering Community Unit Plan

Unit Topic: Breaking Ground: Food On Our Table

Overview:

Students will develop a deeper understanding of the interrelationships created within our community through the ties of agriculture. By exploring the techniques of interviewing, digital photography and documentary video, students will explore the connections between families, community and environment to begin their vision of stewardship.

Enduring Understanding:

Students will discover a sense of empowerment and ownership of the impact of their decisions as they become aware of the interconnectedness of family, community and environment.

Essential Question:

How does food connect the community, family and environment?

Focusing Questions:

What role is food in your life?

What role does agriculture play in our community?

What is the path of food in our community from the ground to the table?

How do food choices affect the environment?

What does stewardship mean to me?

Other Standards and Grade Expectations:

Vermont Standards 1.15 Students use verbal and nonverbal skills to express themselves effectively.

Vermont Standards 1.18 Students use computers, telecommunications, and other tools of technology to research, to gather information and ideas, and to represent information and ideas accurately and appropriately.

Vermont Standards 1.19 Students use organizational systems to obtain information from various sources.

Vermont Standards 3.5 Students make informed healthy choices that positively affect the health, safety, and well-being of themselves and others.

Vermont Standards 3.9 Students make decisions that demonstrate understanding of natural and human communities, the ecological, economic, political, or social systems within them, and awareness of how their personal and collective actions affect the sustainability of these interrelated systems.

Vermont Standards 4.6 Students demonstrate understanding of the relationship between their local environment and community heritage and how each shapes their lives.

Assessments:

Students will produce a documentary either in the format of a photo slide show with audio or a video. Components of their documentary will include interviews from community members, family members and their understanding of how food and agriculture have shaped and continue to shape our community. Students will also investigate and begin the implementation of a stewardship within the community. The focus of the stewardship will be around the feasibility of creating a garden for the residents of the homeless shelter. The final project will demonstrate student knowledge of multi-media techniques, increase student engagement in their community and create community partnerships with the school.

Suggested Resources:

- Ginger Nickerson at vnic@umich.edu
- Paul MacGowan vexp.org-802-865-0123
- Gregory Sharrow, Director of Folklife Center 802-388-4964
- Vermont Folklife Center Radio
<http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/multimedia/radio/index.htm>
- Middlebury Natural Foods Co-Op
- Middlebury Farmer's Market
- UVM Extension Service
- Director of Middlebury's Homeless Shelter
- Judith Irven and Pat Santner- Addison County Master Gardeners
- Addison County farmers
- Larry O'Connor and Al Calzini- Middlebury Union High School
Alternative Education teachers for assistance with audio recording
and digital photography
- Shelburne Farms' Sustainable Schools Project 802-985-0331
mdubel@shelburnefarms.org skadden@shelburnefarms.org
- Bittman, Mark. *Food Matters A Guide to Conscious Eating*. Simon and Schuster, 2009
- Greenall, Sue. *Vermonters' Guide to Gathering, Growing & Cooking with Local Foods*. Susan Greenall, 2009.
- Kelby, Scott. *The Adobe Photoshop CS3*
- By the Editors of the *Green Guide Magazine*. *National Geographic Green Guide: The Complete Reference for Consuming Wisely*. National Geographic Society, 2008.
- Ozer, Jan. *Microsoft Windows Movie Maker2*
- Pasanen, Melissa with Rick Gencarelli. *Cooking with Shelburne Farms, Food and Stories from Vermont*. Penguin Group, 2007.
- A Collection of Recipes Compiled by the Women of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington. *Vermont Kitchens Revisited*. Vermont Kitchen Publications, 1990.
- Smith, Bill. *The Vegetable Gardener's BIBLE*. Storey Publishing, 2000.

Learning Opportunities/Instructional Strategies:

Students will interview their families and community members using the techniques of interviewing, digital photography and documentary video. Students

will first begin on exploring the role of food in their family, and begin the process of a food web on how does food connect family, community and the environment. Students will explore the influence of organic vs. non-organic foods as it pertains to their health, and a healthy environment. Through local cookbooks, students will connect the heritage of Vermont kitchens and understand a deeper appreciation of the role food plays in the family and the community. Students will work collaborately on their final projects and develop their inter-personal skills with themselves and the greater community. The students in the class have specific learning disabilities and the hope is that as they become more of a voice within the community, they develop a vision of themselves in the future.