Garden Project

Big benefits for our students

- Students learn respect for living things and the environment
- Students learn civic responsibility by delivering vegetables to community charities
- Students support healthy eating and a healthy environment
- Students master required math, science and language arts skills while studying aquaponics and hydroponics
- Students collaborate in teams, seeking solutions and sharing results together
- A Carthage College professor and pre-service teachers inspire students and staff through engaging garden projects
- Students share results of their gardening research, culminating with the Evening with Einsteins science fair event in the sixth through eighth grades

Kenosha School of Technology
Enhanced Curriculum
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To study the complex web of connections between all living organisms, students participate in the school’s Garden Program, an essential part of their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) learning.

The Botany on Your Plate program develops students understanding of the important role nutrients play in plant life. KTEC students manipulate water, light and soil levels and record how their adjustments impact plant growth. Students grow lettuce and spinach indoors from January through May. After the harvest students weigh their produce, graphing the results of the nutrient testing.

At a more sophisticated level sixth through eighth graders develop and use systems that deliver nutrient rich water from fish aquariums (aquaponics) to grow lettuce and herbs without soil (hydroponics). Working with Carthage College education department staff and students, KTEC students set up the fish tanks, monitor feeding, tank cleaning and the level of nutrients in the water, which later flows into the plant trays. Students use STEM skills as they manipulate each variable in the closed system.

During warmer months KTEC students tend to the school’s outside gardens, using cold frames they construct and their knowledge of the nutrients plants require to grow.

The Garden Project teaches students to collaborate as they learn to care for living organisms, eat a healthier diet and serve the Kenosha community through food pantry donations.

The school’s annual science fair, An Evening with Einsteins, showcases the work done by sixth through eighth grade students, including research results from their study of living organisms, as well as other technology programs at KTEC.