



2024 Healthy Living Conference City Of Hope

DHS Environmental Club School Community Garden

Tracy Hall, Emeritus Bustos, & Jackie Alvarez



Summary

The environmental club and their advisors launched the school community garden project, driven by their commitment to promoting sustainability and raising awareness about environmental issues within the school community. They saw the garden project as a valuable opportunity to provide hands-on learning experiences, encourage social-emotional development, and foster a connection to nature.

Our Vision

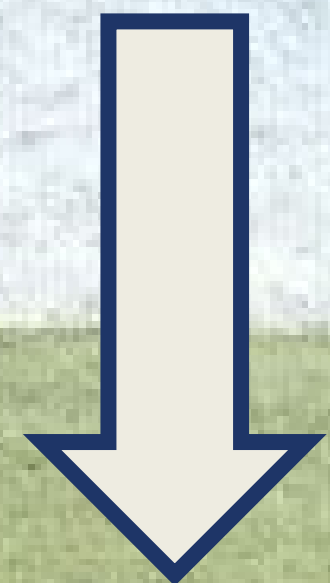
- Promote environmental education
- Foster community engagement
- Develop life skills and team work
- Reduce the school's environmental impact
- Promote opportunities for physical activity

How We Met Our Goals

We met our goals by uniting students from various grade levels, each possessing different levels of gardening expertise. Together, we built garden beds and fences, and participated in planting, watering, and harvesting activities. Our combined efforts created a green space on campus where students can relax and enjoy fresh produce.

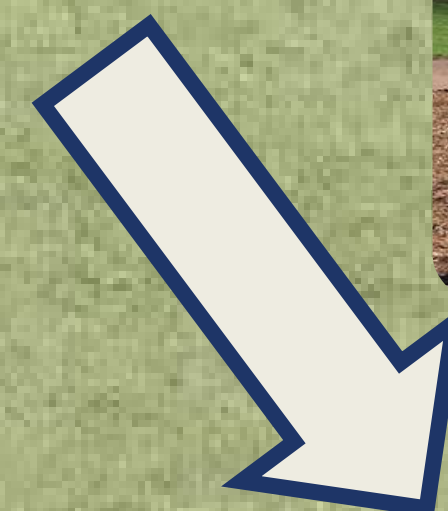
As the environmental club, we organized several activities, including:

- Green Care Day, sponsored by local businesses, where we added mulch and soil to our garden beds in preparation for planting.
- A field trip to the Arroyo Foothill Conservancy to explore the preserve, learn about native plants, and help with trail maintenance.
- Hosting a retired JPL engineer involved in green initiatives at Royal Oaks Retirement, who shared valuable insights with us.



Fun Facts

- A few students who had previously disliked tomatoes due to their taste discovered a newfound appreciation for them after trying the garden-fresh ones.
- We brought students who have never gardened before together and they learned new skills that they carried onto in their own homes



Final Thoughts

*"It was a **cultivating environment** that relieves stress"*

*"It is rewarding because you get to see the **growth** of the plants."*