

the garden's design. Then they use a string to lay out the grid on the garden site. This shows them where to plant seeds and young plants. But it also provides real-world application for using math skills such as geometry and measurement.

The seventh-grade students involved in the project continue to visit the garden during the summer months to harvest the vegetables and deliver the produce to the food pantry. The project also has the added advantage of helping urban youth appreciate how...and where...their food is grown. One student said that, before the class, he didn't know sweet potatoes grew under ground. Others made similar comments...most did not have previous experience working with growing plants.

The project also helped improve the students' work ethic. They learned that growing the garden was tough work, but were willing to do it because of the end result – sharing their bounty with needy people. Perhaps their increased awareness of helping to meet the needs of others, though not measured in the study, was as valuable as were improvements in their learning skills. **BC**

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**Students at the garden project learn from a variety of information sources and activities as they plan the plots.**

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*Editor's Note: Dr. Noble R. Usherwood, PPI Southeast Director, and Katherine Griffin of the PPI communications staff have been involved in support of the "Learn and Serve Garden" since its beginning. They agree that the project has been effective in achieving unique educational experiences for students while also providing them a new perspective on agriculture and food production. Leaders of the project have presented reports on progress at the annual meetings of the American Society of Agronomy.*

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