

THE ROOST REPORTER

The Newsletter of Record for Sixth Grade

Sep. 23, 2018

Unpacking Rochester's Food System



We are getting closer to uncovering this year's hot topic and our work this week around the food system allowed students to build background knowledge and pose questions about the way we look at food. We began with a mystery document and slowly layered in the knowledge required to decipher it. By the end, all crews had completed the food system diagram and understood its components. They worked in expert crews then "jigsawed" into systems crews to see how the pieces fit together. A gallery walk provided additional information around our region's food system and students began to make connections between system components and real-world examples in our community.



Our full day field study provided more insight as we toured the World of Inquiry community garden (kids definitely saw the connections to our work with the novel, [Seedfolks](#)) and the school's chicken club. We are grateful that GCCS alum and WOIS sophomore Jules Wagner could share her expertise with the class and serve as our docent! From there it was a quick ride to the Rochester Public Market, where Evan Lowenstein, Asst. Market Supervisor, explained how the market fit into the existing food system landscape, and what benefits it provided the city. He also described the dilemma of food waste and the disconnect to access many people in our community experience. Our final stop was at Taproot Collective's First Market Farm, where Lisa Zeller (also a teacher at WOIS!) and Stephanie Benway explained the history of the site, the purpose of the garden, and how they hope to foster change in the Marketview Heights neighborhood. We took copious notes and returned to school to try and put it all together.



Working in our expert crews, we began to piece together the story of Rochester's food system, identifying strengths, challenges, and posing questions when they arose. We will revisit this work, speak with a few more experts, and visit a few more sites in the upcoming weeks. Ask your student about his or her work and what they have learned so far about our community's food system.

Service with a Smile



Service and Compassion is one of EL Education's Design Principles and is one that we spotlight in sixth grade, from compost ambassadors to Community Circle helpers to making a difference in our community. We were able to help our new friends from Taproot Collective complete some weeding and mulching at their First Market Farm site following our field study earlier this week. Service is one way we can "pay it forward" and make a difference. Sixth graders have a ten-hour community service obligation as part of their Passage requirement. We will have several opportunities as a class, but we expect students to complete a few hours outside of school, too. Check the class [webpage](#) for upcoming opportunities.



Simon Says...

- ✓ **Curriculum Night** - Our 6th grade curriculum night is scheduled for **Thursday, Sept. 27th**, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. This is a week earlier than the rest of the school.
- ✓ **Exhibition Night** - Just a reminder that it is Friday, **December 14th** in support of the GCCS Family Association's Potluck Dinner.
- ✓ **Picture Day** - students will have their individual photos taken **Thursday, Sept. 27th** afternoon and the class photo on Friday morning.
- ✓ **Arts Schedule Change** - We have the fortunate opportunity to work with guest artists Michelle Whitt and Khalid Saleem (African dance and drumming, respectively) over the next several weeks. Students will work whole group for a few sessions and in smaller groups later in the week. We are excited to have these amazing folks work with our students.
- ✓ **Care About Climate Change?** - The Rochester Youth Climate Leaders will meet at GCCS, Saturday, Sep. 29th at 6:30 p.m. Meet other area middle and high school students and learn what you can do to support a greener Rochester and world!

Mathematical Mindsets



On Friday, students had an opportunity to wrestle with five mathematical puzzles that required them to use some grit and grapple. We discussed the idea of fixed vs. growth mindset, the idea that with effort, practice, and help, you can get better at just about anything. The "I can't" statements we often hear in math are a myth - you can't - yet - but you can if you try. Every student is at a different place academically, physically, socially, and emotionally. It's the personal growth we want our students to see, not the comparative growth against their peers. We will begin our math menus next week and we use a mix of groupings to accelerate student skills and knowledge. First up, integers and the number system. Look for math homework this week, too.

Your Sixth Grade Team

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