

# North Dakota Junior Master Gardener Program Grants

## 2020 Grant Application

Project name: Valley City Jefferson School Planter Project

County: Barnes

Project Coordinator: Josh Johnson

Lead Organization: Valley City Public Schools

Address: 460 Central Avenue North  
Valley City

Telephone: 701.845.0483 Email: josh.johnson@k12.nd.us

Location of Garden: Jefferson Elementary School

**1. Briefly describe your garden project including its major goals. Please include a description of activities. (150 words or less)**

Bringing learning to life through hands-on gardening experiences is one of the major goals of the Jefferson School Planters Project. It also brings a connection between our curriculum to real-world learning opportunities through outdoor classroom experience. Our third-grade students will take the lead to help their fellow school mates grow vegetables and flowers which can be utilized within our school lunch and snack program as well as sharing the beauty of the flowers with our neighboring senior living facility. Jefferson students will be engaged in planting seeds in mini-greenhouses in the spring as part of their Science curriculum.

**2. How will your project make a difference to its children? (150 words or less)**

The 316 students in grades PreK through 3 at Jefferson School will be actively engaged in the learning of plant life cycles and horticultural skills. In addition, they will gain lifelong skills of responsibility, teamwork, community/school involvement, and a

positive work ethic. Mini greenhouses provide the opportunity for students to closely watch the germination, emergence, and leaf and root development. Students, with the help of their teachers, can select a species that they can start in the greenhouse, move into the outdoor beds, and eventually harvest vegetables or flowers from the following fall – thus following the lifecycle of a specific plant. The outdoor beds will provide the opportunity for students to “get their hands dirty” while planting select vegetable and flower varieties, watching these plants develop over the summer, and in fall learn about the utilization of the vegetables and flowers produced.

**3. How will your project make a difference in your community? (150 words or less)**

Teaching our youth about gardening provides lasting impact throughout the community. These students become more likely to encourage their families to plant gardens and potentially grow their own food. The early exposure to gardening may impact their future volunteer choices and even career choices, positively impacting local organizations and our local and state economies. Due to the location of the beds adjacent to the school building, some beds are not suitable for vegetable production but work well for flower production. This provides incredible beauty to the surrounding community and in particular, provides substantial aesthetic benefit to the residents of a senior living facility directly across the street. Students also plan to share harvested flowers with these residents in fall.

**4. Please estimate the number of participants directly involved in the project:**

Young children (3–12 years old): 316

Teens (13–17 years old): 15

Adults: 25–30

**5. Briefly list any partners (such as 4-H, FFA, school, church, garden center, parks department) that are involved. Briefly describe their roles in the project. Be very brief.**

- NDSU Extension – Barnes County staff and master gardeners will provide consultation on soil health of current beds, assist with plant layout, and any other questions that arise.
- The local nursery will assist with plant selection. Senior high students who show an interest in gardening will be hired to provide care and upkeep throughout the summer. Sheyenne Valley Career and Technology Center Ag classes may assist with horticulture and botany lessons and building trades classes may be engaged at a later date to build additional beds.

**6. Budget**


<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Garden plants and seeds	\$600-
Classroom greenhouses (4)	240
Garden soil and compost for top dressing raised beds	150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$990</b>

**For projects coordinated by organizations  
outside of NDSU Extension**

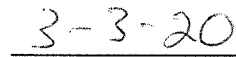
**(to be completed by local NDSU educator)**

Please describe your Extension office's involvement in this garden program (recruiting youth, teaching, coordinating volunteers, providing meeting space). (150 words or less)  
*I will coordinate with Master Gardeners to inspect raised beds and help develop recommendations for preparations for planting. I will assist in laying out the plants so they are ready for the students to plant. Will serve as a resource for advice on watering and maintenance.*

I support this project and will work with the coordinator to ensure a positive educational experience for the youth.



Name of NDSU Extension Service staff



Date