2021-22 Curriculum: Food, Cities, and Our Future

Through the Global Scholars curriculum and online communication with international peers, students learn how to solve a global problem. In 2021-22, students will learn about their local and global food systems. They will discuss and design local solutions to improve food security and mitigate the effects of climate change. For a sustainable future, cities must build food systems that are healthy for all people and the planet.

There are no fees to participate. For more information, visit www.globalcities.org.

Unit 1: Introduction to Global Scholars

Students join the Global Scholars e-classroom and begin to develop global and digital citizenship skills. They write their first discussion posts, reply to international peers, and exchange perspectives. They create videos to introduce their school, city, and what it means to be a Global Scholar.

Unit 2: My Food Environment

Students explore the relationship between food and culture in their local food environment. They discuss how culture, nutrition, cost, and geography influence what people eat. Students evaluate the accessibility of healthy, local food options. They create a community food environment guide and suggest ways to increase access to healthy food for all.

Unit 3: Food-Secure Cities

Students investigate how cities can build sustainable food systems. They learn how city systems that provide food can reduce waste and discuss sustainable ways to improve food security for everyone. Students also research the actions their city leaders take to achieve equity in local food systems. They create a news story to report their findings.

Unit 4: Healthy Food, Healthy Planet

Students examine the relationship between global food production and climate change. They research how different ways to grow, make, and distribute food impact people and the environment. Students discuss equity in the global food system. They conduct a survey to identify food security issues in their community and recommend solutions.

Unit 5: Community Action Project

As a class, students plan, complete, and document a project to improve food security in their communities. They collaborate with peers around the world as they create local solutions. They may start a school compost system to reduce food waste or create a food redistribution program to improve access to nutritious food. Students may write recipes that use local foods, organize a zero-waste cooking challenge, or brainstorm a new solution.

What Is Global Scholars?

Global Scholars is a digital exchange program that connects students ages 10 to 13 in cities around the world. Guided by their teachers, students participate in a project-based curriculum and engage with international peers in an e-classroom. The curriculum advances nine student learning outcomes developed by Global Cities, Inc., which are designed to prepare students to be globally-competent adults. These include four global learning outcomes (appreciation for diversity, cultural understanding, global knowledge, and global engagement), and five general learning outcomes that support growth across academic subjects (digital literacy, language communication, self-efficacy, academic engagement, and critical thinking).

Global Scholars, which is conducted in English, is operated by Global Cities, Inc., which provides the curriculum, access to the password-protected e-classroom, and ongoing professional development for educators. Schools agree they will provide access to devices with internet connection, two hours per week for Global Scholars activities, and an enthusiastic educator to lead activities and participate in required professional development.