

Emeril's CULINARY GARDEN & TEACHING KITCHEN



AT
STARLIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dreams of the future start with seeds planted in childhood.

“My wife Alden and I are thrilled to bring our Foundation’s signature program to Starlight Elementary School and the Pajaro Valley. By integrating gardening and cooking concepts with academic curriculum, we provide an engaging experience that connects kids to knowledge and skills that benefit them not only in the kitchen but throughout life.”

- Chef Emeril Lagasse



A project of the Emeril Lagasse Foundation, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, and our generous community.



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In Pajaro Valley public schools, dreams of college and career are nurtured every day through innovative programs that open young minds to futures filled with possibilities.

Emeril's Culinary Garden and Teaching Kitchen is one such program, bringing new and advanced learning opportunities to over 600 K-5 Starlight Elementary students each year.

The project's unique curriculum advances and enriches classroom academics with life skills and hands-on experiences that deepen love of learning and guide students to discover, while very young, how their strengths, talents, and curiosity can lead to success in education and careers right here in our community.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURES THEY DESERVE IN THE PAJARO VALLEY

This significant new project embodies the transformative education now underway in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. As they take their first steps along the learning journey, students begin to acquire the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in school, careers, and in life.

The Culinary Garden and Teaching Kitchen will be a unique instructional space that will literally bring subjects to life. As students study rainfall patterns, soil science, and food systems, they will gain foundations in Data Science, Sustainable Agriculture, and Biotechnology; fields that are reshaping the economy of the Pajaro Valley. As students advance through middle and high school they can pursue further studies in these and related technical and career fields, making choices for their lives and livelihoods in our community.



THE PROJECT



Opening fall of 2022, Emeril's Culinary Garden and Teaching Kitchen will be a permanent, fully-equipped 30-student 1,543 SF teaching kitchen, adjacent a 7,900 SF organic garden and community gathering space on the Starlight Elementary School campus. The \$2 million project will be funded jointly by the Emeril Lagasse Foundation, PVUSD, generous community members, foundations, grants and businesses.

LESSONS FOR LIFE

In the familiar spaces of the kitchen and garden, students will explore science, math, language arts and other core subjects in creative new ways. As they safely acquire culinary skills, deeper lessons will emerge about teamwork, empathy, self-awareness, communication, and resourcefulness. In the garden they will work together, organizing, decision-making, planning, and problem-solving. These skills will support their success in the workplace and in life.

KITCHEN LEARNING

- Culinary Skills and Cooking Techniques
- Food and Kitchen Safety and Sanitation
- Health & Nutrition: how the power of our food choices fuels our body
- Kitchen Waste Reduction: preservation and total utilization of foods, composting
- Math and Science for the Kitchen: measurements, conversions, chemistry, biology
- Using your Senses: taste, smell, touch, texture, sight, sound
- Foods from Our Community and Our World: food culture, diverse family food traditions, history, and geography

GARDEN LEARNING

- Using all Senses to Deeply Connect and Learn
- The Food System Web: production, processing, transport & consumption
- The Ecosystem Functions of Soil Science
- The Power of Weather and Climate
- Biological Sciences in the Garden: plants, fungi, insects
- Computational Thinking
- Mathematical Concepts in the Garden: measuring, calculating
- How Technology is Transforming Agriculture
- Conservation and Environmental Science
- Data Collection and Analysis

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY, HEALTH, AND WELLBEING FOR THE STUDENTS WE SERVE.

The voice of the student is at the center in all facets of PVUSD. Our commitment to the whole child is rooted in social equity, safeguarding and strengthening physical wellbeing and social/emotional health while providing students the first-rate education they deserve.



BEYOND THE KITCHEN AND GARDEN:

How PVUSD prepares students for bright futures in the Pajaro Valley

Hands-on learning in the Starlight Kitchen and Garden will spark discoveries of all kinds, including children's explorations into the world of work and the ways their education connects to it. They'll continue learning about this connection in middle school, through unique career exposure curriculum showing how their interests and talents can one day become careers.

In high school they'll have opportunities for deeper career exploration, from agriculture and its new technologies to data science, systems programming, hospitality/culinary, biotechnology, health care, and more. Students choosing to pursue one of these Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways will follow a rigorous academic schedule and can earn college credits, industry-level certifications, internships and other real-world work experiences that jump-start their readiness for the high-demand living-wage jobs that await them in the Pajaro Valley.

From their first steps along their learning journey, PVUSD is committed to the success of its students, their families, and their futures in the Pajaro Valley.

Revenue

Emeril Lagasse Foundation	\$ 500,000
PVUSD: Developer Fees	\$ 500,000
Community Donors, Businesses, Grants, Foundations	\$ 1,000,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,000,000

Expenses

7,900 sq. ft. Organic Garden + Community Gathering Area	
Site preparation & materials; mechanical, electrical, plumbing	\$ 237,030
Shade structure, teaching space, gathering area	\$ 59,325
Soil, plants, trees, lumber, irrigation, seating, teaching tools	\$ 25,680
Subtotal	\$ 322,035
1,543 sq. ft. Teaching Kitchen	
Site prep & materials; mechanical, electrical, plumbing	\$ 282,608
Kitchen building (modular) plus interior and finishes	\$ 600,203
Furnishings, appliances, technology, teaching tools	\$ 36,623
Subtotal	\$ 919,434
Construction costs, state fees, tech reports/inspections	\$ 708,531
Campaign Costs	\$ 50,000
Subtotal	\$ 758,531
TOTAL	\$ 2,000,000

Our community is making it happen!

Help bring Emeril's Culinary Garden and Teaching Kitchen to Starlight Elementary School.

To learn more, contact:

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Project Partner and Anchor Funder

"In an area as abundant as Pajaro Valley, our youth deserve access to the highest level of health and wellness. As a project partner and anchor funder of Emeril's Culinary Garden and Teaching Kitchen, CHT is proud to support the building of essential life skills that will not only impact their health now but have the potential to do so for generations to come."

- DeAndre' James
Executive Director, Community Health Trust of Pajaro Valley