

Bagdad Elementary School



INNOVATIVE SCHOOL GARDEN:
GROWING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

**A Proposal To
Whole Kids Foundation**

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PLANTING THE SEEDS

Bagdad Elementary School, located in the Leander Independent School District, focuses on giving our children equal education and opportunities regardless of their economic status. Every one of our students deserves the right to a successful and bright future. As our children grow, they become the healthy, nourished fruits of our society. They are the reason we strive to make this country a success. When problems such as poverty, language barriers, and lack of academic support from home exist, our students' success is compromised. These problems impede our children from successfully growing and learning; suddenly, their futures become uncertain. Poverty has been the primary problem and primary cause of student dropouts in our nation's schools.

We are in the pursuit of changing that.

Our economically disadvantaged children often experience some type of negligence. When quality time with parents decreases, our children tend to have poor vocabulary, poor academic support, and poor nutrition. Parents, who often struggle economically, are at higher risk of having poor relationships with their children as well. This causes their children to detach from adults and can affect communication with others.

Our goal is to create a garden club within an after-school enrichment program at Bagdad Elementary School. Children will learn to participate and engage in group projects, exposing them to constant communication with classmates and other adults. The connections they make in the Bagdad Elementary School Garden Club, generously funded by the Whole Kids Foundation, will help them realize they are not alone in their struggle, and that there are many people around that can help and support them. They will learn to create and maintain a garden that can only exist with the help and support of your donation. By investing in this garden, together we can help children who are economically challenged and living in poverty situations. This investment will provide an atmosphere where our children can grow and succeed while harvesting the seeds of their labor.



“It is like the seed in the soil. The more one sows, the greater the harvest.”

~Orison Swett Marden

(An American Spiritual Author)

**BAGDAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GARDEN CLUB PROPOSAL**



“Cultivators of the Earth are the most virtuous and independent citizens.”

*~Thomas Jefferson
(American Founding Father)*

WATERING THE SEEDS

Difficulties often begin at home, among economically disadvantaged children. Most of these families do not have the opportunity to provide enriching experiences like a garden that allow children to explore and create in their own environment. Your help in funding the Bagdad Elementary School’s Garden Club will allow them to explore various hands-on experiences in math, science, and reading. These explorations include:

- ❖ **Math:** Lengths, depths, measuring, weighing and counting will be part of their weekly routine
- ❖ **Science:** Mulching, decomposition, different aspects of photosynthesis and the process of growth will be discussed
- ❖ **Reading:** Directions, instruction, and names of labels that they are planting will engage them as active readers

Our goal is that our children will enhance their learning experience of helping others by first helping themselves. This enriching experience helps parents rest easy in this wonderful program of the Bagdad Elementary Garden Club. Another struggle for these families is fresh food and self sufficiency.

- ❖ **Fresh Food:** Experience with growing fresh food will implement healthier eating habits and healthier choices
- ❖ **Self Sufficiency:** Independence will improve self-confidence

Your grant will not only affect the lives of our children, but their families as well. Providing our children with the knowledge to grow their own garden will allow them to excel in school, which opens doors to further education, including opportunities for college and trade schools. Planting a garden can provide the experience and knowledge for families to stay healthy, while also gaining the tools of self sufficiency to help our children grow confidently in their actions, and be more successful citizens in the future. With your support through this generous grant we can achieve these goals for our children and so much more.

Ultimately, with your help, we can grow strong children at Bagdad Elementary School.

**BAGDAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GARDEN CLUB PROPOSAL**



FERTILIZING THE SEEDS

What a wonderful opportunity for The Whole Kids Foundation to branch out into the rural community and bring opportunities for healthy choices, healthy living, and to make a healthy difference. The cost of operating The Bagdad Elementary School Garden Club is as follows:

BAGDAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GARDEN CLUB BUDGET

Item	Cost
Supplies and Tools	\$1,000.00
Teacher Stipend	\$450.00
Garden Maintenance	\$550.00
Total	\$2,000.00

Garden supplies and tools include kid-sized shovels, 3-prong cultivators, hoes, and myriad other items. Our teachers at Bagdad Elementary represent some of the best teachers in the district, spending countless volunteer hours contributing to enrichment programs. Providing stipends helps compensate these devoted teachers for their time and effort. Ongoing maintenance of the school garden is essential to make the enrichment program successful and promote flourishing young children.



Figure1. Existing garden space for vegetable garden



Figure2. Existing garden space for additional vegetable garden

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HARVESTING THE SEEDS

Gardens are magical places where children and adults see things come to life. This garden can grow into a reality with help from Whole Kids Foundation. Working together will provide learning opportunities through gardening and help kids understand that food comes from plants and not only out of a box from a store. Please consider partnering with us at Bagdad Elementary School to create an enrichment program through the garden club and start changing the lives of our children today. Thanks.



BAGDAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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