

February 27, 2020

Einstein Parents,

Exciting things are growing at Einstein Middle School.

We are proud to announce the **Marilyn Spieth Outdoor Classroom and Community Garden** fundraising campaign.

Einstein Middle School is partnering with Lowney's Landscaping to develop an outdoor community classroom. The goal is to provide Einstein students and community members with the many benefits of outdoor learning, including:

- Increased motivation
- Decreased stress levels
- Better health
- Better grades
- Improvement in overall behavior
- Enhanced communication skills
- Increased self-reliance
- Better attitude about the environment
- Increased outdoor awareness

The idea sprouted last year when students in Mrs. Hilleshiem's Greenhouse Club asked to turn the unusable space in front of school into a garden. This grew into a new idea... an outdoor classroom and garden.

Students in grades 7 and 8 will benefit from an outdoor environment where they can learn about nature while immersed in nature. Teachers in all subject areas will use this new instructional space with their students.

This is truly a community effort. Retired Appleton Area School District educator Marilyn Spieth made a lead gift of \$20,000 to get this idea off the ground... or rather, planted in the ground. Along with Mrs. Spieth's generous gift, Mrs. Hilleshiem and I have been seeking grants from community organizations. These, together with gifts from our parent community, can help make the outdoor classroom a reality.

This project also has received in-kind support from Lowney's Landscaping, AASD grounds crew and community volunteers.

Our overall goal is to raise \$80,000. We have \$60,000 more to go. This will allow us to build an outdoor classroom that includes an amphitheater with benches, wheelchair accessible paths, the planting of local and native plants and trees and six raised garden beds, which will be shared with Renaissance Assisted Living and Einstein families. This will be completed by Fall 2020, pending funding.

Please consider a gift to support our Outdoor Classroom and Community Garden. The Appleton Education Foundation is handling the gift processing on our behalf. A giving form is attached. Or, you can visit [AppletonEducationFoundation.org/EinsteinGarden](https://AppletonEducationFoundation.org/EinsteinGarden) to make a credit card gift or set up a recurring gift.

Thank you for your support,  
Dave Mueller, principal

### Distinguished Donation Levels

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Seed Level</b><br>Up to \$199             | Recognition on Einstein's social media platforms.<br>Name listed in Appleton Education Foundation annual report.   |
| <b>Sprout Level</b><br>\$200 - \$499         | Name listed on a permanent plaque in the garden.<br>Recognition on Einstein's social media platforms.<br>Name listed in Appleton Education Foundation annual report.   |
| <b>Sapling Level</b><br>\$500 - \$999        | Name listed on a permanent plaque in the garden.<br>Recognition on Einstein's social media platforms.<br>Name listed in Appleton Education Foundation annual report.   |
| <b>Pollinator Level</b><br>\$1,000 - \$4,999 | Name listed on a permanent plaque in the garden.<br>Recognition on Einstein's social media platforms.<br>Name listed in Appleton Education Foundation annual report.<br>Invitation to Sneak Peek of Garden before Grand Opening.               |
| <b>Mighty Oak Level</b><br>\$5,000 +         | Name listed on a permanent plaque in the garden.<br>Recognition on Einstein's social media platforms.<br>Name listed in Appleton Education Foundation annual report.<br>Invitation to Sneak Peek of Garden and Reception before Grand Opening. |