

IGS Curriculum: 8th Grade

Connections to Curriculum Frameworks and MVPS Power Standards: (including, but not limited to)

- Social Studies:
 - Practice and demonstrate civic skills and participate in debates
- Science
 - Understand that reproduction involves the inheritance of traits through DNA
 - Recognize that ecological changes have occurred throughout the Earth's history due to biologic and geologic changes

Connections to IGS Learning Goals:

- Appreciate the farming profession
- Know that everyone can grow food
- Understand the connection between healthy soil, healthy plants and healthy people
- Recognize the difference between the industrial and local food systems
- Feel confident in making healthy eating choices

Essential Questions:

- *Where does food come from?*
- *What is food culture?*
- *How does history inform our food choices ?*
- *How do our food choices affect our communities?*

Fall (September – November):

Lessons:

- Strawberry Milkshake activity – tracing our ingredients
- Seed saving: exploring plant reproduction
- Colonial Chopped Cooking Challenge

Field Trips:

- “Local vs. Industrial” at Grey Barn, Mermaid Farm, or other island farms

Winter (December – March):

Lessons:

- Create Food Rules, based on Michael Pollan’s book
- Engage in class debate: “GMO: helping or harming our world?”

Field Trips:

- Serving Hands and/or Food Pantry distribution

Spring (April – June):

Lessons:

- Experimenting with cross pollination and hybridized plants vs. heirloom
- Triangulation: garden design
- Managing spring plant sale

Field Trips:

- “Local vs. Industrial” at Grey Barn, Mermaid Farm, or other island farms