

STEM Gardening ACCEL Project

Walton Middle School

2018-2019 School Year

Joe Proffitt

The 2018-2019 school year has been very productive for STEM Gardening at WMS. We were able to purchase twenty-five aeroponic tower gardens that are



highlighted throughout our campus, including fifteen tower gardens that sit in a community setting in the outside courtyard by my agriculture classroom. Students learned how to germinate seeds, transplant those seeds into our towers and traditional raised beds, care for plants, troubleshoot problems like non-beneficial insects, and finally to harvest fresh produce. Our class also got to meet with Walton County School District's Food Service Director, Robert Martin. Mr. Martin was very impressed with our new agriculture program and agreed to purchase everything we grow. Our program, in its second year, was featured on the Walton County School District website three times and we also had three separate newspaper articles written about us in the Herald Breeze





Newspaper. The first article featured our Superintendent, Russell Hughes visiting our program. The second article was about my students helping second graders at Maude Saunders Elementary school start a school garden, and this week our program is in the paper for winning the Golden Shovel Award for Best Revitalized Garden in the State of Florida. All of this was made possible by contributions from your organization and many other community partners. We hope to continue our positive momentum and expand our program next year to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders. Thank you so much for your support.

