

VCS INFLUENCER



CRAIG LUNGREN

By Leah Pough
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Agriculture instructor and FFA Advisor, Craig Lungren, is not only teaching his students how to care for animals and cultivate a garden but he's also influencing them to think deeper about where the food they eat every day comes from.

"I feel like every student should go through a class like this because it allows them to see what a farmer does every day to supply them with food," said Mr. Lungren. "It also gives them an appreciation for knowing that food doesn't just come from the grocery store; it actually takes time, energy, blood, sweat, and tears for it to get to the store for them to purchase."

Offering a hands on learning environment through their newly built land-lab, Mr. Lungren is showing his students how to apply what they've learned in the classroom to their everyday lives. "We are partnering with our culinary team, as well as the school cafeteria, to supply them with fresh fruits and vegetables," said Mr. Lungren, "and we're also planning on opening a flower shop to sell the plants and flowers we're in the process of growing."

The Agriculture students are also applying math and science to everything they do. "They are doing everything from calculations, to percentages and weights," said Mr. Lungren. "They are checking when germination is supposed to occur in different seeds, what percent of fertilizer to put in various plants and how long vegetables take to harvest. They are also growing hybrid tomatoes, and testing out different types of soil."

A product of the Volusia County School system himself, Mr. Lungren attended T-Dewitt Taylor Middle-High School where he took part in the FFA program and studied Agriculture as well.

Now a teacher for more than 9 years, Mr. Lungren is instilling that same passion for agriculture into his students at Seabreeze High School and influencing them that no matter their background agriculture is important. "The majority of our students live in an apartment, by the beach or in some sort of urban environment," said Mr. Lungren. "So our main goal is to allow them to become hands on in an environment that they wouldn't normally have access to."

