

# Jackson Elementary

a pictorial essay



▲ The garden's many contributors are commemorated on a colorfully tiled wall near the garden's entrance.

## ■ Jackson

Elementary is a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) magnet school located in Altadena, CA.

In 2014, the school ran a successful Indiegogo campaign to supplement their [Garden School Foundation](#) "From Seed to Table" grant.



▲ Maya Sharp is a parent volunteer who helps run the garden.

■ Many of the classes in this 400-student school are involved in the garden program.

A view of the garden is available from many of the classrooms.



▲ Enter the garden. Grow. Love.



▲ The school's original four beds have now grown to more than thirty beds.

■ Each bed in the garden is a “theme” bed, conceptualized and designed by the students.



◀ **The Three Sisters** bed honors Native American agricultural techniques by growing corn, beans and squash together.

▶ A parent turned this tree stump into a tic-tac-toe board. The students use stones or other found objects to play.



▲ **The Tea Garden** bed grows mint and chamomile, and other tea-appropriate plants.



▲ A school favorite, the border for this bed can be easily repositioned into abstract, curvy shapes.

▼ A local Eagle Scout built two beautifully crafted hexagonal picnic tables with benches for the garden.





◀ The **Garden School Foundation** sends over interns a couple of times a week to help maintain the garden. They also provide a garden teacher who works with the kids, teaching them the seed-to-table process.

▶ The paths through the garden are kept weed free by laying down sheets of scrounged cardboard and covering it with mulch donated by the city.



◀ This pumpkin "volunteered" up out of the compost pile, and will be very ready for harvest when the students return!

■ It takes a lot of people working together grow a school garden, but the reward is the expression on a child's face when he discovers where his food really comes from!

