



Readington News Article

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Three Bridges School Earns “Best in NJ” Farm to School Award

The State of New Jersey Department of Agriculture recently announced that Three Bridges School as the sole recipient of the 2021-2022 “Best in NJ” Farm to School award out of nearly 2,500 schools and over 650 districts. This tremendous accomplishment by Three Bridges School was led by Dr. Kristen Higgins, Principal, the dedicated teaching staff members, passionate students, Maschios Food Services, district administration and the Readington Township Board of Education, who are committed to infusing and implementing sustainability practices across the district.

To achieve this honor, a school district must demonstrate exemplary efforts to serve locally grown, fresh produce in school meals, preschool programs, and incorporate school garden education into the curriculum. Three Bridges School went above-and-beyond other schools by forming local partnerships and creating inquisitive processes such as:

- using grant-funded hydroponic towers and aero garden pods to cultivate edible plants and vegetables for use in school meals facilitated by Mr. Ed Dubroski, Teacher, with students; and
- creating a student-driven garden club program to grow plants for the cafeteria program and snack-time; and
- joining Zone 7 with the assistance of Maschios Food Services to source foods grown in New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania to incorporate into lunch menus, facilitating the overall lowering of the district’s carbon footprint; and
- having field trips to local farmers and other entities to educate students on local growing practices and the rich history of New Jersey farming; and
- designing creative menus featuring local fresh fruit and vegetables, and highlighting sustainable practices in the cafeteria at meal time; and
- providing tastings to all students and staff throughout the year featuring food from local farmers; and
- donating excess food to the local Flemington Area Food Pantry and creating fundraising efforts to support local business; and
- providing free breakfast and lunch during the 2021-2022 school year to all students through federal funding inclusive of the Jersey Fresh Farm to School program, among other actions!

The district is delighted to share this tremendous accomplishment with the community, highlighting the dedication of Three Bridges School in fostering sustainability practices in its curriculum and overall school environment. Congratulations!