

What is a Literacy Garden?

A Literacy Garden is an outdoor sanctuary for teachers to host classes and for students to earn the privilege during study hall to read, reflect, and relax.



Why a Literacy Garden?

The Literacy Garden is one way to promote literacy at MMS by providing students a place to read in a relaxing atmosphere. The Literacy Garden will become a comfortable place for students to gather before and after school. Aesthetically, it will give the historic building a warm and inviting look.

How will the Literacy Garden be used?

- Students will use it for silent reading periods with books of their choice. Teachers will use it to read short stories of high interest to students and then carry out round table discussions. Staff will facilitate the connect-ion between reading and pleasurable leisure time for students.
- Agricultural classes will teach students how to maintain and upkeep a landscaped property since students will plant annuals in the Literacy Garden.

- Music teachers can offer an alternative setting for individuals to rehearse their solo ensembles.
- Art classes can use the Literacy Garden to study nature by collecting specimens for drawing, painting, and sculpting. The garden can also be used as an outdoor classroom where art activities center on nature.
- The school counselor can hold group meetings outside in a peaceful setting for students needing a more quiet and serene environment.
- English teachers can use the outdoor classrooms for students' oral recitations and other classroom discussions about literature.
- Health classes might talk about and practice stress-relieving and communication activities. Using the Literacy Garden offers more freedom from the constraints of the typical classroom and incorporate learning games that are difficult to do indoors.



- Life science classes can use the Literacy Garden to allow students to observe, analyze, and discuss various aspects that are characteristics of living things as well as to study a variety of principles and concepts in the field of ecology.
- Life skills students can discuss plant life cycles, how plants reproduce and grow from seeds, and how to care for a garden. It offers an open-air classroom for the students to learn.

- Staff can use incentive programs for students to utilize the Literacy Garden as a place to enjoy lunch.
- Summer school classes can also utilize the Literacy Garden for classroom activities.

What polices would there be for the Literacy Garden?

Faculty and administration would work on plans outlining expectations for students' use of the Literacy Garden before, during, and after school. Guidelines for how students would earn the privilege to read silently during study hall would also be addressed.



How much will the Literacy Garden cost?

The estimated cost of the Literacy Garden, installed with volunteer help, is \$65,000.

Are tax dollars being requested?

Absolutely no tax dollars are being used to fund any portion of the Literacy Garden. All monies used to build the Literacy Garden will come from donations and fundraising. The project also provides the opportunity for donation of chairs, benches, or tables in honor, celebration, or memory of a person or event.

What type of fundraising will take place?

Funding within the community began in February of 2017 and will continue until we reach our goal. We have individuals, businesses, and civic organizations pledging to donate to the Literacy Garden. We intend to seek more donations through sponsorship for the various outdoor furniture needed as well as holding a school fundraiser. Four fundraisers are being held by volunteers at Marshfield Middle School throughout the 2017-2018 school year to help contribute to this cause. Fundraisers planned include a school dance, pizza sale, fun run, and raffle.



Donations?

All donations to our project will be accepted as a donation to the Unified School District of Marshfield (USDOM) and are tax deductible. If you would like to make a monetary donation, checks can be written to USDOM. Please note "MMS Literacy Garden" in the memo of your check. Checks can be mailed to:

**Mike Nicksic – Principal
Marshfield Middle School
900 E. 4th Street
Marshfield, WI 54449**

What is the timeline for implementation?

Our intention is to begin implementation of the Literacy Garden in June of 2018, with completion by the end of August, 2018.



What help is needed?

We are looking to recruit teachers, support staff, students, parents, and willing community members to partner with us in our fundraising and construction efforts. If you would like to join our cause, please call Mike Nicksic at (715) 387-1249 ext. 3135 or e-mail: nicksic@marshfieldschools.org



MARSHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL



LITERACY GARDEN

FUNDRAISER

