

PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release
Far Hill Country Day School
November 17, 2017

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Grade 4 Plans Lower School Garden Using Design Thinking

“How do people utilize land for their survival and advantage?” This question has been the crux of the first trimester in grade four at FH. To understand how to use natural resources for survival, grade four faculty challenged their students to create a masterplan for the FH Lower School Garden using Design Thinking.

Design Thinking is an approach to innovation and a learning strategy utilized in project-based learning at FH. Students employ cross-disciplinary skills of research and analytics with creativity and design to create a solution to a problem. The Design Thinking process for the Lower School Garden is an authentic experience; the garden’s yield may ultimately benefit our faculty and staff who work during the late Spring and Summer.

The students were divided into three teams, each tasked with using Design Thinking to critically and creatively tackle the main elements of the project they had identified as a whole: site preparation, protection and care of the garden. During a presentation to their peers and members of the school leadership team, each group described their research and recommendations thus far. Notably, students carefully considered the need to protect the garden from hungry animals and proposed creative ways to do so without harming them.

The next step for our budding master gardeners, landscape architects, animal-lovers, scientists and environmentalists will be to evaluate the feedback from their peers. In Design Thinking, feedback throughout each stage is important and is shared by using phrases like, “I wish...”, “I like...”, and “what if ...?”

Rudyard Kipling said, "Gardens are not made by sitting in the shade." Indeed, it takes hard work. In addition to learning about the research, problem solving and design skills necessary to build and maintain a healthy garden, our grade four students are calling upon their mission skills: time-management, teamwork, ethics, creativity, curiosity, and, of course, resilience—a necessary skill for all successful gardeners.

For more information about Far Hills, visit fhcds.org or contact Stacy Ducharme, Acting Director of Strategic Marketing & Communications at sducharme@fhcds.org or (908) 766-0622 ext. 1427.

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Far Hills inspires academic excellence and life skills such as resourcefulness, resilience, integrity, self-control, and a myriad of other invaluable traits that lay the foundation for lifelong success.

Our students don't just learn answers. They develop the courage to challenge those answers. They learn not only problem solving, but also gain the confidence to stand by their solutions. They don't simply learn to play a musical composition, they develop the self-esteem to stand up and perform. This is the balance that defines Far Hills—and sets our students apart.

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