

RENEWING AND REFLECTING

July 2021-June 2022



This school year was a busy and impactful time at Edible Schoolyard NYC. We:

- ★ Returned to **fully in-person** programming with our students
- ★ Welcomed **Executive Director Shanon Morris**, MS, RD, CDN
- ★ Led an inclusive and equity-focused **strategic planning process**
- ★ Deepened our **social-emotional learning** and **food justice** programs
- ★ Expanded our **advocacy** for health, food, and educational equity in NYC

"This is my first time trying cauliflower. At first I was scared, but then I really liked it!"
-4th Grader at P.S. 109 in Morris Heights



ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

This year, we provided both in-person and virtual family and community programs and food distributions, such as pay-what-you-can farm stands, meal kits, and healthy snacks for students. We led professional development (PD) workshops for educators in-person and virtually this year, including workshops like "Teaching Middle Schoolers about Social Justice and the Food System."

2,800 attendees at our community programs, which is a 35% increase from last year

12,997 total food distributions, which is over double last year's giveaways

95% of PD participants learned a new skill or activity that they will use in the future

NEW SCHOOL PARTNERS

In spring 2022, we partnered with **three new schools** in Bensonhurst, Inwood, and Williamsburg, providing garden and outdoor learning support. Students learned about pollinators and food marketing, and they planted vegetables and herbs in their school gardens. In Bensonhurst, we worked with the school community to build a new edible school garden, with tomatoes, peppers, herbs, and more!

EXCEEDING OUR GOALS

We led significantly more programs this year than last. Students in 3K to 8th grade practiced Native American gardening traditions, performed cellular respiration experiments with yeast, and dissected lima beans. They also cooked together, making vegetable dumplings, Hoppin' John burgers, and Arroz Chaufa.

3,500 students reached this year, which is a 21% increase from last year

2,178 hands-on cooking and gardening lessons taught, a 25% increase from last year

96% of students tried the tastings in lessons

184 extracurriculars like cooking club and Green Team led, which is a 139% increase from last year

"You were great with our kids. So many parents asked me, 'Who is this new garden teacher my child keeps telling me about?'"

-Principal at New School Partner
P.S. 18 in Williamsburg

IMPACTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF ESYNYC

Based on surveys this year, parents and school teachers have shared that our students are growing socially-emotionally, choosing healthier foods, and engaging more in their other classes and at home.

Teachers say...

- ★ Two out of three teachers report students are **making academic connections** between ESYNYC lessons and core classes, like math and science
- ★ 79% of teachers say students feel **safe, welcome, and excited** to participate in ESYNYC programming
- ★ Over half of teachers report students are **positively engaged**, not only in ESYNYC lessons but in other classes as well

Parents report...

ESYNYC programming is **shifting students' relationship with food**. They report their students are more mindful about their food choices, more adventurous about trying new foods, and applying the lessons they learn at home.

"It's helped him be more adventurous with trying new foods. It has also sparked his interest in gardening."

-Parent at Brighter Choice Community School in Bedford-Stuyvesant

EXPANDING OUR CURRICULUM

We expanded our food and environmental justice curriculum, creating two units for upper elementary and middle school students. These units cover topics such as farm worker rights, biodiversity, and environmental impact of the food system.

- ★ 309 students participated in the food and environmental justice curriculum this year
- ★ 89% of students said they have a better understanding of the people needed to support the food system

We also invested in social-emotional learning (SEL). Our teaching and program staff attended **trainings on SEL and trauma-informed instruction**, and we piloted a social-emotional observation tool.

EDIBLE EDUCATION ADVOCACY

We advocated for health, food, and educational equity, as well as edible education for every child in New York City. We gave testimony on food education and school gardens to the US House Rules Committee and NYC Council and served on coalitions like the Mayor's Food Policy Transition Team, NYC Food Policy Alliance, and Food Education Coalition.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our students, school partners, families, staff, volunteers, and supporters for making this school year a success. We look forward to next school year, when we will grow our organization and implement our new strategic plan. **We hope you will join us on the journey!**

