

The OFE Growers welcome all students and parents back and especially the 5th graders. We look forward spending time with each 5th grader, teaching, experimenting, planting, and harvesting lots of produce from the OFE Gardens. Each 5th grader spends one hour every two weeks working with us. We are a group of volunteers who spend thousands of volunteer hours each year teaching and maintaining the gardens and some of the landscape around the school. Oak Forest is the only school in Humble ISD with this program.

Virtually all the produce grown during the school year is sent home with the students. Last school year, including the summer harvest, that amounted to 2 tons! All gardening is done organically without pesticides, herbicides, or chemical fertilizers. We urge parents to try to use the things the students bring home to you. They will be so proud of the fruits and vegetables they grow. Please encourage them by being positive about their produce.

This summer, the volunteers and some students have tended the gardens and orchard at the school. Many more pounds of produce were picked during the summer. Several of the volunteers have preserved much of the summer harvest. These items are always offered to parents in return for a donation to the gardening program. Your purchase of these items helps to sustain this program. Many of you picked up order forms at Falcon Fest last Thursday. We still have almost all products available and would appreciate it if you would help us liquidate that inventory and at the same time provide funding so this program can continue.

You can contact hoppergo@aol.com to order product or put the order form in a sealed envelope with OFE Growers on the front. Have your student give this to their teacher.

The Growers also maintain a web site: www.ofegrowers.org. Here you will be able to keep up with what is happening in the gardens and check out all the pictures taken each week. Take a look and let us know what you think in the comments section.

We are a diverse group of mostly retired people. We would love to have any parents, grandparents, or community members give us a hand in maintaining the gardening program at the school. The OFE Growers are a 501-c-3 non-profit organization. Emily Fortner is one of the 5th grade science and math teachers and is the president of the Growers organization. Give her a call at 281-641-2834 or e-mail her at: emily.fortner@humbleisd.net, if you have questions or can help in any way.