

OFE Growers Newsletter for September 2nd, 2021

We are continuing to make the gardens for the new year ready for the fall planting. What that means is that beds are being amended (compost being added) and fertilizer mixed into the soil (besides adding nutrients this also provides for aerating the soil. We are getting our seeds together as well. There still are the usual chores of making the walkways clear and laying down new walkway mulch (usually pine needles or wood chips.)

The weather this week has been projected to be wet and with the hurricane Ida bearing down on the gulf coast we will probably get some moisture from that as well. But that should not affect our first class times as part of the time we will be talking with you in the classroom and the remainder of the first class time will be spent with a quick tour of our main and annex garden areas. There will be an orientation presentation which will involve talking about the program and what we will be doing over the course of the school year. There will also be an introduction to safety which will be presented in more depth by your team volunteer when a specific tool is needed for a specific task to be completed by your team. You will see we take safety very seriously and we live by our motto that **“safety is no accident”**.

Since the 5th grade will be divided into 4 class periods for the garden program, it will take two weeks to complete the first lesson. The second time we meet we will be talking about **COMPOST!** Undoubtedly one of the more important lessons and an excellent example of how nature **RECYCLES!**

The following lessons are all laid out on our OFE Growers Website (www.OFEGrowers.org .) They are available to each of you whenever you wish to use the computer at home or at designated school times by going to the website and choosing the lesson you wish to see and hear. Please explore this website because it can help you answer so many questions!! You can't hurt it so please try it. The website will be changing throughout the year for instance your activities will be documented by oodles **of pictures of you and your classmates, you can find see these by typing or taping on <https://www.ofegrowers.org/5th-grade-program.html> . There will be weekly newsletters that you can find under NEWS in the website. An area I find really exciting is the Bulletin Board. Here you will find interesting videos and short essays on a host of topics very much part of today's news for instance did you know that there is an internet (of sorts) underground? Go check it out!!! If you go to the volunteers section you can 'meet your volunteers', see who they are and read about what interests them. And finally if you are into numbers you can visit the garden activity section and see how our harvests are doing or what activities have been done like planting, harvesting, weeding, and fertilizing over the past month or week or year to date.**

It's all about to begin and I'm really looking forward to it. See you there!