

Farm Transformation
May 2017

The Compass School



The Compass School

We are a high achieving, public charter school serving kindergarten - 8th grade located in Kingston, RI.

Our Mission: The Compass School is a multi-age learning community which:

- Fosters a passion for learning in all students so they can reach their full potential.
- Utilizes a project-based curriculum integrating academic disciplines, emphasizing social responsibility and environmental sustainability in small classroom settings to prepare each graduate to be a responsible citizen in a global community.

Farm Launch 2017

Prior to 2017, Compass had already established many green practices including:

- A successful greenhouse program
- 10 raised beds
- Lunch waste composting systems

In the Fall of 2016, The Compass School decided to bring its work to the next level by launching The Compass School Farm, 28 times the size of the original garden!



The Compass School Farm

Our Vision:

The Compass School will activate and engage its student, family, teacher and communities in order to design, launch and maintain the largest school garden resource center in the State of RI. The Compass School Farm Hub will serve as an academic and experiential science resource for all of Washington County's children.

While our science curriculum is already project-based, in 2017-18 Compass will work to fully align our project work to the NGSS standards and our farm. Once complete, we will then make that curriculum open-source for all interested schools to access.

Made Possible By:

The Compass Farm Advisory Board

- Compass parents, teachers, the School Director and the Farm Launch Director met twice a month to plan and coordinate design of the farm.
- Members accessed their personal networks to bring resources to the farm project.



In August 2016, many members of the Compass Farm Advisory Board traveled to Green Village Initiative in CT for inspiration.

Made Possible By:

The Compass Community

- 1 Campus Clean Up Day
- 3 Build the Farm Saturday Workshops
- Multi-age learning at its best: parents, teachers, and children of all ages working and learning together



Over 70 community members came out for our Campus Clean Up Day!

Made Possible By:

Compass Student Voice and Leadership

- Membership consists of:
 - 23 Compass Middle School students
 - 3 Teachers
 - The Farm Launch Director
 - The School Director
- The group met weekly in 3 sessions this year.
- Students tackle multiple school community projects each year.



In March 2017, Compass Student Voice and Leadership members were honored at the State House for their Green Student Leadership initiatives.

Made Possible By:

Compass “Build the Farm” Elective

- 5th and 6th grade students opted to participate in this elective course for the Spring trimester.
- It was co-taught by their science teacher, the Compass Farmer and the Farm Launch Director.
- They met for 45 min twice weekly in the 3rd trimester.



Made Possible By:

Compass Navigators (7th/8th Grade Students)

- The maze was designed by a Compass 7th grade student.
- Subaru Loves the Earth contributed to the project.
- 8th grade students designated the garden as their class gift. Each student added a rock and a plant to the design.



Made Possible By:

Our Partners

- Major Financial Donors:
 - The Lattner Foundation
 - Main Street Resources
- Other Wonderful Contributors:
 - Lynne Phipps & InSpirited Living
 - United Natural Foods Inc
 - Fiskars
 - RI Wild Plant Society
 - Subaru Loves the Earth
 - Arnold Lumber
 - UBS
 - Vision Landscaping



- With Recognition from:
 - Project Green Schools
 - The Boston Bruins Foundation
 - Walmart
-



The Garden of Ideas

Acting as a menu of options, the Farm highlights a variety of garden features.

The goal is to inspire visitors to implement these designs in their own schools' gardens.



Garden of Ideas Entrance - Before



Garden of Ideas Entrance - In Progress



Garden of Ideas Entrance - In Progress



Garden of Ideas Entrance - After



Garden of Ideas - Before



Garden of Ideas - Raised Beds - In Progress



Garden of Ideas - Raised Beds - In Progress



Garden of Ideas - Raised Beds - In Progress




Garden of Ideas - Raised Beds - After





The Outdoor Classroom

The felled trees that once occupied the center of the farm area have now been fully repurposed into tables, chairs and garden bed edges.



Outdoor Classroom - Before



Outdoor Classroom - In progress



Outdoor Classroom - In progress



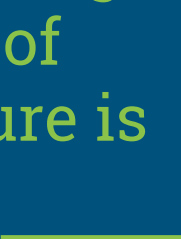
Outdoor Classroom - After





The Wildlife Habitat Maze

Born from a Compass student's design, the maze holds the attention of visitors young and old. The feature is composed of rocks, perennials and shrubs.



Wildlife Habitat Garden Maze - Before



Wildlife Habitat Garden - In Progress



Wildlife Habitat Garden - After





The Biodiversity Garden

Our garden aspires to conserve nature and attract native species of flora and fauna back to our ecosystems.



Biodiversity Garden - Before



Biodiversity Garden - In Progress



Biodiversity Garden - After



Garden of Ideas - Full View - In Progress




Garden of Ideas - Full View - After





The Lavender Labyrinth

Focused on our social responsibility mission, our labyrinth fosters self-awareness and mindfulness within our students.



Lavender Labyrinth - Before



Lavender Labyrinth - In Progress



Lavender Labyrinth - In Progress

Many thanks to
the URI
Basketball Team
for their
assistance with
the lavender
project!



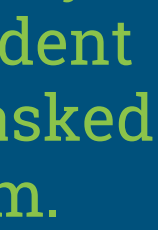
Lavender - After





The Gazebrary

The Gazebo + Library = Gazebrary
concept was born when our Student
Voice and Leadership students asked
for a reading space in the farm.



Gazebrary - Before



Gazebrary - In Progress




Gazebrary - After





The Greenhouse

The greenhouse is a bustling zone of activity for students K-8. Students learn to make “The Compass Soil Recipe”, create their own soil blocks and grow vegetables from seed.



The Greenhouse - In Progress 2017




The Greenhouse - In Progress 2017

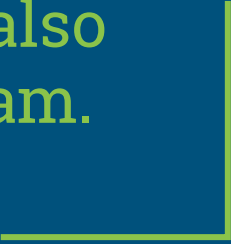




The Farm Stand



The farm stand will foster student entrepreneurship skills while also providing a farm revenue stream.



Farm Stand - Before



Farm Stand - In Progress



Farm Stand - In Progress



Farm Stand - After





The Fence

“You’re not a real farmer until you
have a fence.”

~Farm Advisory Board Quote



Farm Fence - In Progress



Farm Fence - In Progress




Farm Fence - After





Compass Farm Headquarters

Once a dead building referred to as “the shed”, this space will be a learning center with farm workshop space, our farmer’s office, and produce prep/storage areas.



Farm Headquarters - Before



Farm Headquarters - In Progress



Farm Headquarters - After



Farm Tour!



“This is not the end, it’s the
beginning.”



~Ms. Brandee