



Programming Update

*By Laura Genello,
Farm to School Specialist*

When I started working at Great Kids Farm five years ago, summers were rather quiet. We had a small crew of high school farm interns and a handful of summer field trips. Today, things look very different.

As I type this, our 30 summer campers, 3rd through 5th graders from all over Baltimore City, are exploring the farm in their clubs, each group working on a different project: cooking pizza, building an aquaponics system, making farm-fresh snacks, learning survival skills, or practicing theater. They're supported by a team of six high school camp counselors who work as leaders and mentors for the younger students. Meanwhile, the farm interns are harvesting potatoes and tending crops in the lower field. It's not uncommon to see them going up and down the hill on the tractor past the groups of summer campers.

In addition to all this on-farm activity, we're continuing to bring the farm to schools

throughout the summer, partnering with other school-based summer camps. Yesterday, I made salsa with 60 campers at Creative City Public Charter, and, two weeks ago, we made kale salad with a health and physical education camp at Holabird using kale from the farm.

All this is to say, summer feels full of life and activity. It's wonderful to see so many kids experiencing the joys, curiosities, and frustrations of the farm when the fields are most full of life.



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Summer Highlights

By Anne Rosenthal,
Farm to School Specialist

As part of their Summer Bridge program, Dunbar's rising 9th graders spent a day on the farm exploring the woods, harvesting snap peas, meeting our animals (including a box turtle they found stuck in a fence!), and building bonds with their new classmates.



Two groups of students and recent grads from several of our high schools are busy working at Great Kids Farm this summer! Counselors take leadership roles in all four camp sessions, and farm interns are keeping the plants and animals lookin' good.

Camp got off to a great start with our Session 1; campers loved wading through our stream, tasting farm-fresh recipes with @blackgirlscookinc, and creating beautiful pieces of farm art. Now onto sessions two, three, and four!



Farmer's Notes

*By James Koval,
Farm Manager*



The interns are now a few weeks into their summer work. We have already accomplished so much this season. We have been busy tending to all the plants and growing spaces. Now that it is finally raining again, things are taking off. We have had some great harvests of beans, potatoes, lettuce, and kale. The cucumbers, peppers, and tomatoes are still a few weeks out. The watermelon and corn should be good for the end of

summer/early fall field trips.

New for this summer, we got a lot of battery powered lawncare tools for the interns to use. Now, we can have multiple interns running machines and accomplish so much more than we have before. The battery powered tools are great. They are much lighter and much quieter. But they are still able to get the job done! It has been such a great improvement to our work this summer.



Flavors of Fall Tickets Summer Sale!

Order now to get \$45 tickets for our biggest fundraiser of the year, *Flavors of*

Fall! This sale price runs until August 1st. [Click here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets.

Friends of Great Kids Farm Presents

Flavors of Fall

Happy Hour Fundraiser

Saturday, September 23rd 4:30-6:30



Join us for a casual happy hour to support
the programs at Great Kids Farm

Featuring small plates highlighting produce from the
farm, signature cocktails and mocktails, a silent
auction, and more!



Scan this QR Code to purchase
tickets or visit friendsgkf.org



Scan this QR Code to check out
our online silent auction

Board Member Spotlight

We are so grateful at Friends to have an active and engaged board. The two board members below lead the way with their enthusiasm, passion, and dedication to the mission of the Great Kids Farm.

Blake Wrigley

*Deputy Director of Alumni and Network Engagement,
Baltimore Corps*



Blake was first introduced to food justice and Great Kids Farm through his late aunt and mentor Jill Wrigley, one of the founders of the farm. He has worked in the city as a case manager and mentor for youth, an environmental educator, and a public health advocate. He now works at Baltimore Corps, a nonprofit that supports leaders and entrepreneurs doing social impact work in the city. Blake is passionate about caring for the natural world and sharing its wonders with others.

VICE PRESIDENT SALES STRATEGY, M&T BANK



HERSHEL WAITES

"I believe in the impact of bringing students from the city to places outside of their surroundings."



Hershel has always had a passion for volunteerism and is continuously looking for ways to increase his impact and get involved. When he was first introduced to the work being done at Great Kids Farm, he couldn't wait to begin making a difference. Hershel is one of our most active board members and we are so grateful to have him serve with us!

A native of Baltimore, Hershel enjoys traveling to exciting places as well as trying various types of unique cuisine. Hershel currently works at M&T Bank where he provides training and education within the Business Banking division to assist teams with the overall go to market strategy for their clients.

The Great Kids Farm Beet

SUMMER UPDATES

- SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: Great Kids Farm and Forest Camp: Rising 3rd-5th graders (at non-charter schools) may register via the district's [summer learning hub](#) or by calling 443-490-5697. FREE bus transportation offered from a different city bus hub each week. More info @ www.friendsgkf.org/summercamp
- SAVE THE DATE! FREE Farm Family Hours - Fri, August 18, 12-5pm More info + optional registration form [here](#). Additional dates coming soon!
- High school internship program & service-learning opportunities, including Tuesday Garden Crew Volunteer Hours @ GKF: [email us](#).
- Program Sign-Ups for School Year 2023-2024: Complete interest forms to get first word when we begin booking programs (in August)!
 - [Field Trip to GKF](#) (gr K-5)
 - [Farm to Classroom Experience @ School](#) (gr Pre-K-12)
 - [Facetime the Farmer](#) (gr Pre-K-12)
 - [Ag-tivity Kits](#) (gr Pre-K-12)
- **Virtual Field Trip:** Students explore GKF at their own pace with this digital experience designed for the virtual classroom.
- Video Resources: [Science-curriculum-aligned videos](#) and [introductory farm clips](#)

RESOURCES & SERVICES

For guidance on school gardens, outdoor learning, food education, related partnerships -- and how to connect F2S themes to curricula, review the below and [email us](mailto:friends@gkf.org) with additional questions.

- [School Garden Toolkit](#)
- [Outdoor Learning Toolkit](#)
- [Classroom Cooking Toolkit](#)

A full list of offerings and resources can be found at www.baltimorecityschools.org/farm-school.

For more information about educational resources, please reach out to our farm to school specialists at farms@bcps.k12.md.us for the most up-to-date information. And be sure to follow us on social media!

Facebook @friendsgkf **Instagram** @friendsgkf **Twitter** @friendsGKF



History Corner

Curious about Great Kids Farm's history? Check out [this 5-Minute History video by Baltimore Heritage!](#)

