

Teacher Feature

Ms. Carole Velasquez

1st Grade Teacher

Cedar Park STEM Elementary School

Apple Valley, MN



Where and what level do you currently teach and why did you choose to become an educator?

I teach First Grade at Cedar Park STEM Elementary School in Apple Valley, MN. I chose to become an educator because I love learning and I want all students to develop a love of learning. I want to provide all students in my classroom a chance for engaging and active learning opportunities.

How has agriculture and the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Program and resources impacted your students and instruction?

The Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Program and resources have impacted my students and instruction in a highly positive way. Students who would normally not get a chance to explore where food comes from are able to participate in our farm family Skype sessions and hands-on learning activities. During these sessions, the students learn about life on a farm, farm animals and the planting and harvesting of crops. They are always engaged and take away an excitement to share what they learned with others.

Describe any agriculture based projects you have been involved in lately.

Due to the Japanese Beetles eating away at our apple trees and lettuce, students created and put insect traps in our school gardens. Students have reported that the insect traps are working and that the number of Japanese Beetles eating away at the apple trees and lettuce leaves is down.

What advice do you have for other teachers on implementing agriculture into their classroom/program?

I would tell teachers to just try it. Implementing agriculture into the classroom is fun and easy to do with such great resources. Start with an agriculture read-aloud book or AgMag and branch out from there.

Why do you believe it is important for our students to be agriculturally literate and aware in today's society?

I believe it is important that our students are agriculturally literate because they need to know where our food comes from and how hard farmers work at planting, harvesting crops and raising animals.



