Community Roots Activity Guide: Spring/Summer

Science

Lead students in dissecting tomatoes. Research the anatomy and life cycle of the featured crop, and create informational posters / diagrams to be hung around the classroom or cafeteria.

3-5

Using tomatoes as a theme, students practice the math and science skills of estimating, measuring, counting, graphing and sequencing. K-2, 3-5

Hold a class-, school-, or district-wide contest for who can grow the tallest tomato plant from March until the end of the school year!

Discuss with students the environmental impact of sharing land as they do at Urban Edge Farm.

Health

Have students research the nutritional benefits of tomatoes and what part of the plant they are, and create informational posters to hang around the classroom and/or cafeteria.

<u>K-2, 3-5,</u> <u>MyPlate</u> : <u>3-8</u>

Create a recipe, poster or advertisement highlighting tomatoes, that encourages others to eat RI tomatoes.

Note: Ask cafeteria to put together a variety bowl of tomatoes; review different varieties with class, tasting - if allowed, & leave for poster inspiration

Discuss with students the nutritional content of tomatoes. 3-5

ELA

Give students a journal to write their thoughts about each virtual field trip they go on. At the end of the year, ask students to use their notes from their journals to write a book with a small team of students explaining what they learned from the F2S activities

3-5

In their journals, ask students to write down three recipes they would use tomatoes in; what types of tomatoes they would use; where they could get the tomatoes.

Agriculture related readings
Tomatoes for Neela K-5,
Fruit Bowl K-5
A True Book: Tomatoes 5-8
Tomatoes, Potatoes, Corn, and Beans
5-12

Art

Have students outline, draw and color in the stages of a tomato plant flowering and producing fruit.

Have students create a textbook page featuring a tomato, including its structures, benefits, and taste profile.

Students will create art that depicts Urban Edge Farm as they see it in their minds after watching the video and hearing from some of the farmers.

Tomato Explorations <u>k-2</u>

How Does Your Garden Grow?

<u>3-5</u>

Shape, Form, and Function in the Garden 5-8

Social Studies

Have students research farmers in RI that grow and sell tomatoes. Ask them to choose 3 farms from the <u>Local Food Guide</u> and write a paragraph about the farm; who, what, where? K-2

Identify 4 cultures that use tomatoes in their food. Research recipes from each culture, and compare and contrast them.

Discuss with students how personal identity impacts farmers, such as how someone's culture may impact what they grow, or the barriers that stand in the way of people with marginalized identities becoming farmers (6-8)

Math



Have students calculate the distance the farm is away from the school and compare it with the distance of a store bought version 3-5, 3-12

Have students design a school garden blueprint by learning about the growing conditions/space needed for planting tomatoes.

Food mapping/ Processing of Tomatoes Students explore the production and distribution of fresh produce with activities in tracking the steps food takes getting to their plates. 3-12

Tomatoes are an important ingredient in pizza, so explore them with some pizza math! 3-5