



Dear community of educators, learners, and families,

At The Edible Schoolyard, we believe that students' experiences outside of school are just as meaningful as their experiences at school. We seek to bring students' lived experiences into our classrooms to connect their lives to their learning. Now, widespread school closures have created a moment in which learning primarily occurs outside of formal learning environments.

During this time, we have an opportunity to support students in deepening their practice of *life-wide and life-deep*¹ learning. This is especially true for edible education with food in the spotlight as families adjust to cooking and sharing more meals at home, and home gardening increases in popularity as a means of food production and connection to nature.

This moment also represents an incredible opportunity for educators (ourselves included) to practice designing truly student-centered lessons. The Edible Schoolyard aims to support students, teachers, and families through a suite of lessons and activities designed for the home classroom.

We've designed our lessons around the themes of imagine, create, learn, connect, reflect, and support. These themes represent the aspects of learning we create in the Edible Schoolyard classroom. These themes offer students, families, and teachers openings to different ways of knowing and types of learning. The lessons within these themes connect growing and preparing food to our histories, cultures, identities, and social and environmental issues.

Imagine: uses creative expression to engage with the garden, food, and cooking.

Create: undertakes projects that have tangible results both in the kitchen and garden.

Connect: uses food as a tool to build relationships, connections, and conversations.

Learn: creates content-rich learning experiences for students around gardening and cooking.

Reflect: prompts reflective practices such as listening, meditation, journaling, and free-writing.

Support: calls to engage and respond to urgent needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We hope you will continue to learn with us as we join each other at the table— the dining table—to grow together and share stories.

With care and dedication,

Nick Lee Raquel Vigil

Nick Lee and Raquel Vigil, designers of edible education at home.

¹ Banks, et, al. (2007). *Learning in and out of school in diverse environments: Lifelong, life-wide, life-deep*. Seattle: Center for Multicultural Education, University of Washington