

Gardening Program Yields Vegetables And Herbs For School Cafeterias In Gaston County

Todd Hagans, Chief Communications Officer, Gaston County Schools

Summertime means being in the garden, and that's exactly what is happening at Gaston County Schools' Dora Humphrey School Nutrition Center in Lowell. An area that once served as a ball field and playground is now an expansive vegetable and herb garden that is yielding hundreds of pounds of produce. Best of all, the locally-grown food is making its way into Gaston County school cafeterias.

The farm-to-school program started two years ago with the help of the Gaston County Cooperative Extension Service's master gardeners. It has grown since then, and veggies such as tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, zucchini, and a variety of herbs are being harvested each week by the bucket loads. The food is being prepped, bagged, and frozen for use in dishes that students will enjoy when they return to school. Additionally, some of the food has been used over the past two months in the school district's summer meals program.