



Mari's Gardens Educational Tours

Educational Tours –

\$6 per student, per teacher, per chaperone (25 students max per group, 3 group max)

(Tours are normally 1-1/2 hour; we may go over slightly at times due to weather, questions and student behavior).

We welcome our school students, faculty and chaperones on guided tours through our farm and its operations. Your guide will give the students an introduction to Mari's Gardens history and this is what you can expect while on the tour.

- Understanding What is Aquaponics and Hydroponics
- What sustainability “means” and how it relates to our farming practices
- STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, how it is applied in everyday Aquaponics and farming
- Using Hawaii's Core Standards 1-12, Benchmarks, and Learning Goals
- Weather and its effects to our agriculture and fish
- Hands-On activities...activities may vary depending on grade requirements and standards
- Farm to table...Where does my food come from
- Learn the importance of supporting local farmers and increasing food security in Hawaii.
- Tour topics may vary depending on the age level and student interest, as well as tour guide's teachable moments.

Hands-On Activity

We provide hands on learning activity for students, determined by grade levels. Mari's Gardens will provide the materials needed for certain activities, please read carefully regarding the planting activity and what you as a school/class/teacher need to bring to participate.

All Grade Levels

Planting Activity: This is a great activity for students in grade PreK to 6th as it includes a seed to table learning experience. Students can see the growth cycle of a lettuce plant by starting their very own lettuce seedling and taking it back to the classroom or home. We encourage teachers to make this a part of their lesson plan as it ensures maximum student participation. Mari's Gardens will provide the grow media, seeds and starter plants for all their cartons that they brought. **As part of our message to promote sustainable agriculture teachers are also encouraged to bring recycled milk cartons, rinsed out, make a small hole on the bottom of the carton and on the side or top of the carton the students name with sharpie prior to coming. Any vessel similar to use as “green” planters, i.e. tofu containers, juice containers...**



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Grades: Pre-K - 1st Gr. Activities

Mari's Gardens Take Home Farm Book:

Painting with Vegetables - using water based paint we have the students paint with beets, radishes and cucumbers.

Edible Press Flower Page - students will be able to learn about edible flowers and press them onto their page and take them home to share with their family.

Identify Page- What is Hydroponics vs Aquaponics

Dig for Worms: in artificial dirt (coconut core bin) the students will be able to search for "artificial" red and blue composting worms. They will see a real bin and look at what is inside and feed the worms.

Explore Live Lettuce: in an up close hydroponic channel students will be able to touch, hold and see our lettuce as it really grows.

We are a soilless farm and encourage this age group to explore without reprimand different areas of the farm in a safe environment. We have multiple hand washing station and restrooms near the outdoor classroom area for the students and faculty to wash up. We want this to be a wonderful experience for all.

Grades: 2nd Gr - 6th Gr. Activities

Seeding Activity: This "seed it forward" activity will introduce students into the first steps of planting seeds for both Hydroponic and Aquaponic systems. Learning how to plant directly into cell trays and with the help of classmates and teamwork, accomplish seeding for the next school that will visit us after them. Seeding today ensures lettuce and vegetables for tomorrow and harvesting regularly to feed many people.

This activity directly exercises STEM as the students learn Science, Technology, Engineering and Math wrapped up in these hands on experiences as well as how it directly affects our farm and their everyday activities.

Compost & Worm Feeding: Learning how to properly maintain and feed a worm bin. Understanding what a symbiotic relationship with worms are. Dos and Don'ts to composting. What is vermicast and how it benefits us. Sustainability and absorbing our own waste and its benefits.

Grades: 7th Gr - 12th Gr. Activities

Water Testing Activity: This is a great activity for students in grades 7-12 as it will introduce them to using water test kits to check two main parameters, nitrates and ammonia as well as a general PH level. From there we will diagnose and troubleshoot the aquaponic system. This is great for upper grades especially those that already have or are looking to build an aquaponic system on campus or at home. Water testing is also a perfect activity and a way to get exposure and familiarity for high school and college students and introduction for our intermediate school grades.

Compost & Worm Feeding: Learning how to properly maintain and feed a worm bin. Understanding what a symbiotic relationship with worms are. Dos and Don'ts to composting. What is vermicast and how it benefits us. Sustainability and absorbing our own waste and its benefits.



Tour Guidelines

To ensure that your visit to Mari's Gardens is both educational and safe, please read all of our tour guidelines. We are a fully functioning agriculture nursery, farm and landscaping business. This is our livelihood and we ask that you respect the property and all the things in it so others can enjoy it as we hope you will.

- We require a minimum of 15 students. The maximum number of students at one tour time is 75. We can be flexible depending on your situation, please inquire upon booking.
- We ask that all tour groups please **BE ON TIME**. If there is an emergency and you anticipate not being able to arrive at your scheduled tour time, please call 808-625-2800 and communicate your situation to our staff so we can assist you.
- We ask that your faculty and chaperones **KEEP OUR GROUP TOGETHER**. This will ensure that your students get all the information at once and no one gets left behind or hurt.
- We ask that faculty and chaperones help control students and their behaviors.
- Please **NO KICKING OF ROCKS!** Please ask your students to be respectful of the farm and all of the surroundings plants and materials.
- Our nursery has many plants, potteries, gravel and statues. We ask that none of them be pulled, ripped, thrown or damaged while on your tour. We reserve the right to ask you to escort any student that is not being respectful out of the farm/nursery until the tour is finished.
- Our fish are very sensitive and we ask that they are not harmed or disturbed in any way.
- We are a food safety certified farm and ask that there be **NO TOUCHING OF ANY PRODUCE** while on the tour.
- We require all tour guests wear covered shoes.
- No gum, candy or food items are allowed while on the tours.
- Please clean your areas after you are done with your lunch and observe the recycled bins.
- Suggested items to bring: **Bottled Water is a MUST**, Umbrella, Covered Shoes, and Hat & Sunglasses are highly recommended.
- Please have your student's wear comfortable clothing and covered shoes that may get dirty.

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Cancellation Policy

All farm tours and guides are weather permitting. Our Farm is located in a “passing shower” area of Mililani and for the safety of all our guests and tours are subject to cancellation if we are faced with unsafe weather conditions.

We require 7 days’ notice to cancel tours without a charge. This notice will allow us to reopen the dates for others. A confirmation call will be given to confirm the cancelled date and tour.

We do want to stress the importance of planting and seeding activity. We want to make sure that you have fully read that portion of the tour information as we will not have jiffy pots or excess recycled containers to replace ones that were forgotten or not brought. Bringing in a recycled container is a huge lesson for students and we need to make that possible for them.

Thank you for choosing Mari’s Gardens as field trip and learning experience for your students.

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”
– [Benjamin Franklin](#)