



RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2010

**U.S. Marines To Help Prepare Large Vegetable Garden at Riverview Gardens High School**

A group of U.S. Marines who recently returned from Iraq will help prepare the ground for an approximately 1,000-square-foot vegetable garden from 2:30 to about 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, April 21** at Riverview Gardens High School, 1218 Shepley Dr. in Bellefontaine Neighbors.

In an area outside of the school's library, Marines from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment, will till eight gardening plots and add mulch and gardening compost for an area that will grow vegetables and herbs for future use in the school's cafeteria and Family and Consumer Science classes.

Chet Plegge, a RGHS special education teacher, is coordinating the project with Gateway Greening, which is providing gardening tools, seeds and plants. St. Louis Composting has donated 10 yards of mulch and another 10 yards of garden-quality compost to get the ground ready for planting.

"This is a project that has endless possibilities for our school and gardening enthusiasts in our community to get involved," said Plegge. "It's a community-based project that not only provides a positive experience of growing a garden, but also will allow our students to reap the rewards of fresh produce grown on their own campus. What is great about this project is that we're not only growing a garden, but we're also growing a caring community."

In addition to providing vegetables for lunches in the school's cafeteria, produce from the garden will be designated for RGHS families and area food pantries. Students enrolled in Family and Consumer Science classes also will maintain and reap the benefits of a portion of the garden.

"I have found that students really connect with gardening and take pride in things they grow," said Plegge.

Another part of the gardening project includes beautification around the school campus with flowers and other perennial plants. Volunteers will gather immediately after school on Wednesdays through the end of the school year and then will set other dates and times throughout the summer to tend to the plants and vegetables. The RGHS PTA members, ROTC cadets, a Bellefontaine Neighbor's alderwoman, and other community members already have expressed interest in volunteering to work on the vegetable garden and landscaping projects.

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Editor's Note: For more information, contact Chet Plegge at RGHS: 314-363-7567 or 869-4700, ext. 2073

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