

# Memorandum of Understanding

## “Farm to Cafeteria Program”

### Between Sanzuma and San Pedro School San Rafael.

This Memorandum of Understanding sets for the terms and understanding between the Sanzuma (SZ) and the San Pedro Elementary School (SPES) to create a sustainable “Farm to Cafeteria Program.”

#### Background

Sanzuma is dedicated to increasing access to healthy food sources through programs that focus on reconnecting communities to their environment. We have taught garden education, environmental stewardship, nutrition education, and kids healthy cooking classes at 10 Marin County TK-8 schools since 2014. The students become aware of where their food comes from, how to grow it, and what the consequences are when a person makes poor eating choices. Sanzuma has sold over 1800 pounds of organic produce from the San Rafael City School's Gardens to the the San Rafael City Schools Meal Program during the 2017/18 school year.

#### Purpose

This MOU is to continue coordinating and facilitating a farm to cafeteria program for San Pedro School within the San Rafael School District. This program will include nutrition and garden education for San Pedro's TK and Kindergarten (K) classes starting fall 2018. Since research shows that children's development occurs more rapidly with hands-on practice, the students will be given a visual presentation and then be allowed to practice their new skills in a garden bed set up for their age.

The two main goals of this program will be nutrition education, and environmental stewardship. Within those buckets we will teach the students how to grow food, why it is important to know how to grow food, and how to have a lifestyle of eating healthy food. The second bucket of classes will encourage the students to care of the environment and empower them with life skills to understand why it is so important to take care of their community. Although, these goals seem lofty for TK and K, nutrition and environmental education needs to start at an early stage with nature and fresh fruits and vegetables. Research clearly shows that value formation begins in children at ages two, three and four, for this reason we will also introduce both buckets of classes.

#### Research

Additional research in the new fields of eco-psychology and evolutionary psychology shows that if children do not have time to explore and fully understand nature, they are at danger for developing what is known as biophobia, an aversion to nature. I see this phenomenon manifested at the children's garden where I teach. Their first impulse, when confronted with some natural elements like an insect, is to be afraid and then to kill whatever they have observed. Children must be allowed time in their early years to interact with nature and living elements before they can understand it well enough to want to preserve it.

Gardens are unsurpassed in providing a hands-on approach to seeking information, observing changes and

learning skills. Gardens are constantly changing and are highly attractive learning labs. The garden can also be used as a springboard for basic math skills, reading and writing skills, social studies skills (foods from other cultures) and art skills such as identifying colors and patterns, creating drawings, and painting. Each of these garden

activities will be based on the differing capabilities and needs of the students.

Lastly, children love to try new foods, especially when they have grown the food themselves or been involved in collecting the food source. The garden will provide a perfect place to introduce new foods that the students will see in their lunch program this year and in the future. Sanzuma is partnered closely with Alan Downing the Director of Food and Nutritional Services for San Rafael City Schools. All lessons taught in the gardening program will provide activities for children to practice personal growth, social skills and working cooperatively as a team to solve problems.

## **Direct Goals**

- To teach TK and Kindergarten developmentally appropriate basic garden knowledge, basic nutrition education and basic environmental stewardship as appropriate for TK and K grade levels.
  - The age-appropriate gardening activities will take into account children's differing cognitive capabilities and psychological needs.

***The above goals will be accomplished by Sanzuma undertaking the following activities:***

In addition to the TK and K classes Sanzuma will continue the Farm to Cafeteria program through the 2018/19 school year.

We are committed to:

- Coordinating garden and planting schedule with School Food Service staff to ensure more fresh fruits and vegetables are being added to the school meal program.
- Provide a production garden manager for up to 25 hours a week or as per the County funding allows.
- Continue resources needed to run a "Farm to Cafeteria" program. Resources will include infrastructure, logistics of delivery of food, staff and volunteers that help distribute food and maintain the garden
- Explore all grant possibilities and continue to apply for the appropriate ones.
- Conduct a total of 25 weeks of garden education for grades TK and K at San Pedro School taught by Sanzuma staff.
- Schedule project based learning classes with San Pedro Elementary students.
- Plan and prep for garden classes each week.

***The above goals will be assisted by San Pedro School undertaking the following activities:***

- Provide the .16-acre garden space at San Pedro School for no cost to Sanzuma. Included in the .16-acre garden space will be 12 garden beds in the front half of the garden. Five of these beds will be used directly for the TK and K classes mentioned in this contract. The other 5 beds will be used for growing taste test foods used in our nutrition education classes at San Pedro or for SRCS meal program.
- Provide the use of the greenhouse at no cost to Sanzuma. Sanzuma will maintain and improve the greenhouse during the contract period.
- Provide water for the greenhouse and garden at no cost.
- Support the project by doing outreach to the San Pedro Community.
- Help to coordinate 5 farm clean up days per school year.

## **Reporting**

If requested Sanzuma will submit year-end report to San Pedro including photos from garden, testimonies, and videos. The report will be completed by July 15, 2019

## Funding

CONTRACTOR: Sanzuma

CONTRACT TITLE: Farm-to-Cafeteria

San Pedro School shall pay CONTRACTOR as follows:

**BASE CONTRACT FEE. San Pedro School shall pay CONTRACTOR a contract fee of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,000).** CONTRACTOR shall submit a monthly report accompanied by a year-end report. Payment will be made within 5 business days upon review and approval of documentation that contracted services have been completed.

## Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from Sanzuma or San Pedro School. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from the Sanzuma and San Pedro School and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials from Sanzuma or San Pedro School this MOU shall end on June 15, 2019.

## Contact Information

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*Lori Davis*

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 09/04/18

Lori Davis, organization, Executive Director Sanzuma

\_\_\_\_\_ Date:

Marie Melodia, Principal, San Pedro School