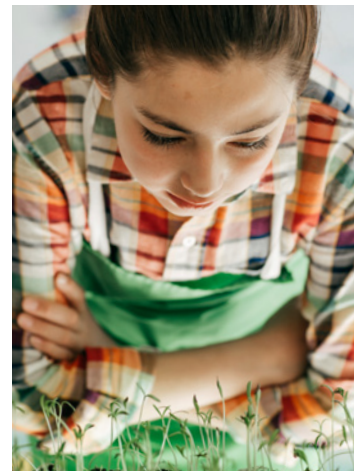


# AMBASSADORS: CHILDREN TEACHING CHILDREN

Starting in the fall of 2016, the Ambassadors Program will inaugurate the educational collaboration between **THE GREEN HOUSE VENTURE**, Saint Louis University and the schools of Urban Education Alliance. Guided by parents and educators, teams of students from each school will meet once a week to explore topics in science and technology. They will then bring their knowledge back to their own classrooms by making reports and by crafting imaginative blogs and videos to be offered on the **THE GREEN HOUSE VENTURE** website.



## GOALS

**Accelerated learning:** Guided by Missouri's Next Generation Science Standards, the teams will undertake challenging, hands-on projects each semester. Besides presenting what they learn to classes at their own schools, children will create blogs and videos, offering lessons on line in science and technology as seen through the eyes of children.

**Teamwork and networking:** As students, parents, teachers and mentors learn to work together, they will develop a network of connections between four very different schools, each with special strengths. These connections will be vital to later, more extensive collaborations of the Venture.

**Wider impacts:** Over time, as student teams share their work on line, the Ambassadors Program will become a lively part of the Venture's effort to become a regional and national source for innovative ideas in science education.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Teams of 4-6 kids from Grades 4-6 in each Alliance school will come together weekly to work both separately and as a larger group, with older children helping to teach younger ones.
- Parents will provide encouragement, ideas, support, and transportation.
- Saint Louis University faculty will design the curriculum and the lessons, which will be taught by graduate students and facilitated by undergraduate assistants from the Micah Program.
- Alliance Teachers will prepare children at their schools to grasp presentations by Ambassadors.
- **THE GREEN HOUSE VENTURE** will coordinate with the schools and parents, assist with videos and blogs, and provide feedback. Once the Green House is built, staff will take over these functions.

# INAUGURAL YEAR

In school year 2016-17, even before construction of the facility begins, teams will meet weekly at one of the Alliance schools to learn to work together and undertake challenging projects.

The fall will be devoted to sky and soil. Children will learn to operate a new weather station on **THE GREEN HOUSE VENTURE** site, and will test soil there and elsewhere in the city. SLU faculty in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences will design a suitable curriculum and lessons on climate change and weather. Educators from the Danforth Plant Science Center will offer lessons in soil composition and testing.

The spring will focus on scientific comparisons of plants grown aquaponically and in soil, using equipment developed in the SLU Aquaponics Lab and housed at each school. The head of that lab and faculty who head up growing for the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics will design the curriculum.