

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION  
Cuyahoga County

# Cleveland's 4-H Agriscience In the City Year 8 Summary (2020-21)

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**In-School Component:** As the Cleveland Metropolitan School District only offered virtual classes for most of the school year, Agriscience in the City was amended on-the-fly to accommodate the new ways students were learning and interacting. Surprisingly it turned out to be a lot of fun for the scholars, teachers and me considering a key element of the program, hands-on learning, was challenging to address.

Four CMSD schools participated: **Almira, G.W. Carver, Luis Muñoz Marín, and Sunbeam**. Those schools totaled eight 5th Grade classes with 172 students enrolled.

Student pre- and post-surveys were conducted primarily through Zoom chats, making the results useful but less reliable than in past years.

## Summer 2021 Component

- » Went “live” again, partnering with Cleveland agencies who provide services to youth (Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority, Salvation Army, Case Western Trio, and Future Scholars and Kids of the Future daycares).
- » Visited eight summer programs hosted by these agencies to provide STEM lessons to over one-hundred youth a week.
- » Assisted Lake County's 4-H Summer Residential Camp on two evenings to offer STEM programs for their campers (great camp Lisa and crew!).

**All in all it was just nice to be around people again.**

## CMSD Participant Demographics:

- Female 50.5%, Male 49.5%
- Black 56%, Hispanic or Latino 33%, White 11%

## Content Covered:

- Farm life: basic beekeeping, raising chickens, composting and decomposers, growing garlic
- Black STEM Stars and “Birds at My Bird Feeder”
- Solar system and moon facts, NASA and the Mars rover/helicopter, science of snowflakes
- Using virtual microscopes, sound & light waves, robotics, following the Scientific Method and basic graphing, Ohio 5th Grade Science assessment review

## Data Take-aways (N=50+ students; 3 teachers):

- Nearly 90% of students gave the program either an A (68%) or B (20%) grade.
- Thirty percent of students reported being more likely to log in/attend on days Agriscience In the City was offered.
- The number of students selecting Science as their favorite academic subject increased from 21% to 28%.
- The top three favorite lessons were Decomposers, Honey Bees, and the “Birds at My Bird Feeder” series.
- 100% of teachers rated the program as “Excellent,” would participate again and recommend it to others.

**In-School Conclusions:** The incredible flexibility of CMSD's students, teachers and administrators made 2020-21 virtually fantastic! Special thanks to the teachers who worked so hard and invited me into their class for an hour or two each week: Andrew Greco, Sheryl Richardson, Linda SanFilippo, Regina Westlake and John Whelan.

Plans for 2021-22 include adding William Rainey Harper School and re-engaging Alfred Benesch School and possibly a third from Cleveland's Central Promise Neighborhood.



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