

For Immediate Release

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Local Students Have Green Thumbs

Zucker Middle School Teams with Green Heart Project to Plant Garden & Orchard on Campus

Dr. Nancy J. McGinley
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Jerry Zucker Middle School

Mr. Jacob Perlmutter
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NORTH CHARLESTON—

On Tuesday, March 12th, Mr. Drew Harrison and a team of volunteers from the Green Heart Project joined Mr. Wesley Jordan and his sixth grade students from Jerry Zucker Middle School's Gifted & Talented program to plant a citrus orchard on the school campus. The orchard is adjacent to a plot of twenty-four fifty-foot fully irrigated rows which the Green Heart Project will turn into a vegetable garden. There is still much work to do on the garden, which will eventually contain all kinds of different vegetables. The orchard is finished and consists of twenty-five citrus trees including five trees each of Meiwa Kumquats, Ambersweet Orange, Chinese Honey Mandarin, Hamlin Orange, and Brown Select Satsuma.

Founded in 2009 as a small school garden at Mitchell Elementary in downtown Charleston, the Green Heart Project has grown and expanded into a farm-to-school program with the micro-farm serving as an outdoor classroom where students get hands-on lessons in math, science and entrepreneurship. The program's collaboration with Zucker Middle is their second project and their first one with a middle school.

Drew Harrison, who was recently honored as a *Charleston Regional Business Journal* "Forty Under 40" winner, started out with the Green Heart Project as a volunteer and has been the program's director for two years now. According to Mr. Harrison, "The Green Heart Project micro-farm at Zucker Middle will be GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certified allowing us to serve all of the citrus and veggies our students grow directly to our school cafeteria. In addition to that, we are looking to team Zucker with a local restaurant partner that is interested in buying fresh, local produce to serve on their menu and will help promote and sustain the program."

For more information regarding this event, please contact Principal Jacob Perlmutter or librarian Miranda Cary at (843) 767-8383.