

QUAIL FARMING AT CSKYWLA



Artwork by CSKYWLA Student

As part of our school's work around alleviating the effects of the food desert in our community, we raise Coturnix quail. Our quail farming initiative is comprehensive in that we incubate a select number of quail eggs, other quail eggs are checked by our Certified Egg Candler and those suitable for consumption are sold as part of our Market Day. Quail eggs that are not Grade A or higher are composted. We also compost the quail waste. Adding quail eggs and waste to our compost bin has helped to enrich our soil for our Edible Garden.

The quail are cared for by our Quail Guardians- a group of middle school girls that help to design and build our enclosures out of recycled materials as well as care for quail from hatch and beyond. Quail Guardian responsibilities include collecting quail eggs, refilling food and water bowls, composting quail waste, quail handling and chick care to ensure our birds are tame and comfortable around kids, and care during extended school breaks. Our Quail Guardians are our resident quail experts.

Our quail are very popular with our students! Each quail is named and they appear in our school's curriculum across grade levels and content areas. Sample student work includes observation charts for incubation periods, quail narratives, quail information sheets written in French, artwork that appears on our egg cartons, engineering plans for improved enclosures, and much more!



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If you are an Atlanta Public School and are interested in incubating and hatching quail but cannot commit to raising quail on campus, we are happy to partner! Students can research quail facts, study life cycles, calculate temperature and humidity in the incubator, journal and keep an observation log during the 17 day incubation period: the possibilities are endless! The culminating event is hatch day, where students excitedly watch the tiny chicks resiliently make their way out of their shells. Obtain an incubator and a dozen Coturnix quail eggs from CSKYWLA then return the incubator and week old chicks for a low-commitment and hands-on unforgettable experience for your students! Contact Laura Peña at laura.pena@atlanta.k12.ga.us if you have any questions.



Chicks in the Brooder



Quail Guardians Redesigning the Brooder



Students love holding quail chicks and adults!