



Bee School Application

Name of School

Briar Hill School

Address

1233 21 St NW
Calgary, Canada
T2N2L8

Name of Applicant

Danielle Gerla

Applicant's Job Title

Teacher/Learning Leader

Organization or Department

Calgary Board of Education

Applicant's Email

drrosegerla@cbe.ab.ca

Applicant's Phone

+14037776140

Are you the primary contact person?

Yes

Briefly summarize why your school should become a Bee City School.

Robin Wall Kimmerer writes "People often ask me what one thing I would recommend to restore the relationship between land and people. My answer is almost always, "plant a garden." It's good for the health of the earth and it's good for the health of people." (Braiding Sweetgrass, pg. 126). The grade 3/4 teaching team and students have worked incredibly hard this year learning about and designing our "dream" garden". As a collective, our dream garden includes an Indigenous garden, a pollinator garden, and an edible garden. We have recently recieved a \$1000 grant for this journey to begin. Currently, students are growing a large variety of wildflowers which are native to Alberta. They have spent a great detail of time learning about each wildflower they chose to grow, as well as native bumble bees of Alberta. In creating a school garden, our aim is to create a rich learning environment, where the flowers and pollinators are the teacher, in an attempt to foster a deeper connection to the environment.

In order to enhance the understanding of the students and staff about the vital role that pollinators play in a healthy ecosystem, the applicant agrees to meet the following commitments required of all Bee City Schools:

1. Adopt the Bee City Canada Resolution (see section G).
 2. Create a Bee City Pollinator Team.
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Pollinator Team Members

Danielle Gerla (teacher)
Megan Lawson (teacher)
Elan La Montagne (principal)
Neel Sharma (student)
Sevena Chahal (student)
Andrea Sampson (Out of School Care Program Manager)

3. Develop a Pollinator Habitat Action Plan:

We plan to create three raised garden beds on our school property. Once outdoor growing conditions are optimal, we will transfer our plants from our indoor greenhouse to the garden beds. Along with learning about pollinators (specifically bees) and plants/flowers, students have also spent a great deal learning about pollinator habitats and how we can best utilize our outdoor spaces to create new homes for our pollinator friends. Students are keen to build bee homes made of reused/recycled materials such as ceramic mugs, logs, tin cans, etc. We hope this learning space will become utilized by all members of school and local community. Students also wish to create outdoor signage that contains information about bee and plant care.

Current plants being grown for our pollinator garden:

- Alberta wildflower mix
- Sunflowers
- Canada Anemone
- Forget Me Nots
- Wood Lily
- Morning Glory
- Smooth Fleabane
- Canada Goldenrod

4. Promote Education about Pollinators:

Within the next year, our goal is to establish the foundations of a school garden, starting with the pollinator garden. All students will be involved in this process. To support this work, we would host professional development workshops to provide our teachers with resources and skills to support them in this work. Within 3 years, we would like to expand the garden to include fruits, vegetables, and herbs and more infrastructure to enjoy the space. We want the garden to be a foundational component of every classroom's practice. Our school also houses before and after school care that is operational over the summer months. They are in full agreement to use and maintain the space over the summer months. We truly want this to be a community garden.

5. Celebrate Pollinators:

Each classroom will be encouraged to celebrate National Pollinator week in a manner that is most suitable to their curriculum and classroom needs. This will be an incredible opportunity for classes to learn more about and potentially expand on the garden our team has started.

I/we, the undersigned agree to:

1. Publicly acknowledge Bee City School designation through publicly displayed signage, city/region/community website and other means.
 2. Annually re-apply for Bee City School designation. A renewal application will be sent to you.
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Please submit a short 50-100 word write-up of why it's important to become a Bee City School.

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Attach your school logo (png format) with any usage guidelines.

 [BHSLogo-4Colour.png](#)

Attach photos, videos, posters, documents or other media showcasing events, activities or initiatives.

 [Briar-Hill-School-Garden-Proposal-Process.pptx](#)

Signature of Principal/Official

Elan La Montagne

Date

04/14/2022