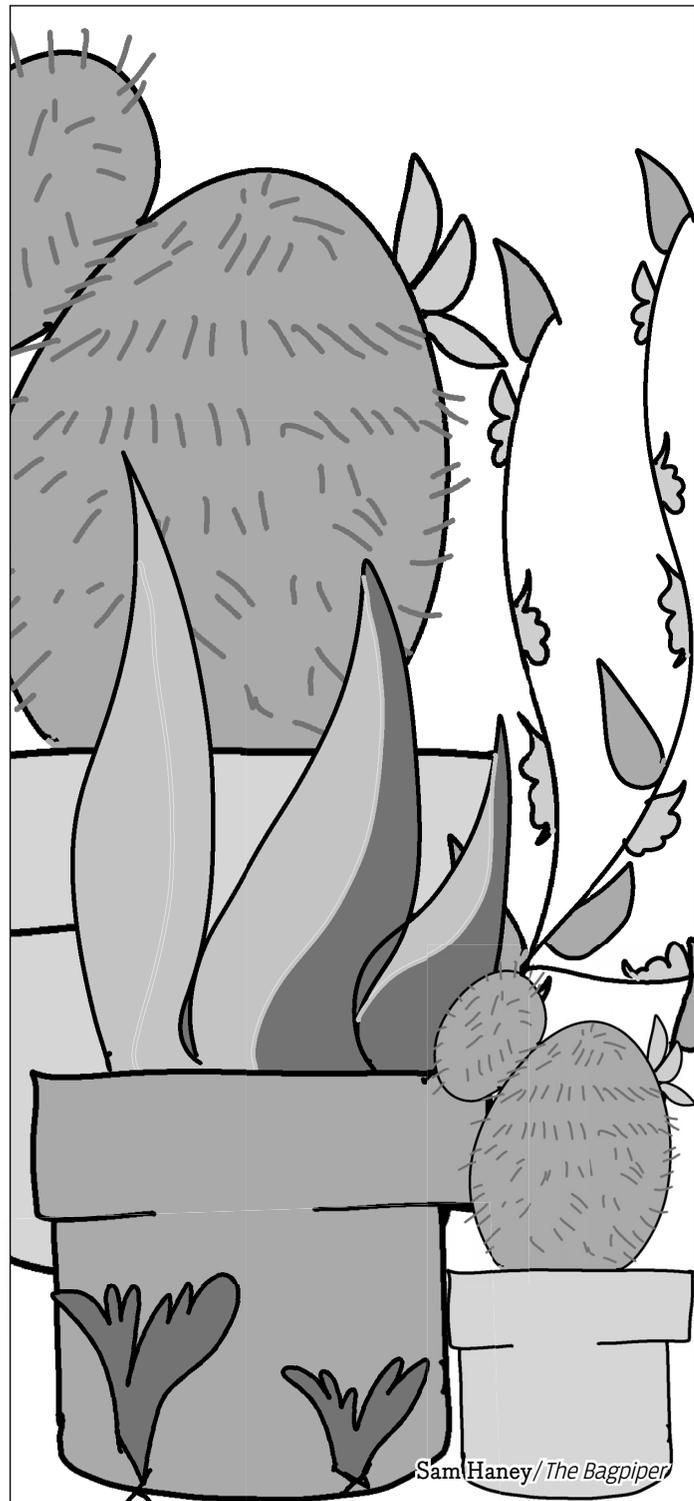


Partnership sponsors unique perspectives

Newly-introduced FC Food Project offered with G2GG partnership shares lessons on both business and philanthropy



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With recent changes to curriculum at FC, students have been participating in a new curriculum centered around a Miles For Merry Miracles organization, Good To Grow Green. These students have the ability to navigate the process of creating, branding, and marketing a product, with the product being plants grown and harvested inside of FC.

“Good to Grow Green is a project we are using to help students understand the idea of what it means to brand and market a product, and so this is a real life opportunity for us to do that,” said Elexia McGowan, Future Business Leaders of America sponsor.

While students are able to learn much from their experience in the field of philanthropy through Good to Grow Green, it focuses more on the importance of understanding how to manage a business.

“We partnered with Good to Grow Green because its already an operation. We had Teresa Hebert [program director] come in and pitch the idea to us so that we could help students and children learn how to eat better. In doing that, we’re doing both philanthropy and marketing,” said McGowan.

The first part of the class focuses on students learning about the importance of eating healthy, the requisites of running a business, and later teaching others what they have learned, including students in grades two to four at New Albany-Floyd County elementary schools.

“We’re going to teach third graders about what a seed is. We’re going to do a KWL table and go through and ask what they know about a topic, to see what they already know. Then, we’re going to ask what they want to learn, and then after we’ve gone through the topic, we’ll go back and they’ll tell us what they learned that’s new,” said freshman Meghana Mohankumah.

Through this organization, students will also be able to communicate knowledge and propose ideas to administrators and possible collaborators.

“We’re supposed to explain Good To Grow

Green to administrators, businesses, and community members. And then, we’re meant to help the communities who are food insecure,” said freshman Kole Robinson.

Students, having the ability to communicate with and teach younger individuals and administrators, will learn to better understand the topics they have been taught, and to enjoy the process of helping others.

“We really enjoy teaching students about food, nutrition, gardening, and philanthropy through our six to seven week program. We enjoy watching the kids get excited when they build the garden, plant the seeds, and watch their produce grow, then it is super exciting when they get to eat what they have grown,” said Hebert.

To grow the plants, students will learn about and help use an aeroponic garden, similar to those used by Walt Disney World and NASA, to maintain the machine and monitor the growth of the plants. Students who have been taught how to use the machines help in the maintenance of the garden.

“It is a tower garden with little slots, with cubes of rockwool. We put seeds in there, water sprinkles down the sides and keeps the rockwool cubes damp. I check the pH balance, and we have to keep the tank full to have water for the plants,” said sophomore Wyatt Williams.

While this program centers around business, those who are not interested in such topics may still find it to be both an enriching and interesting course.

“I’m not really into business, but this class is interesting. Like the Good To Grow Green program, what we’re working on right now, it’s going to be very beneficial to kids that don’t have food or families that don’t have food,” said freshman Dane Rudolph. “It’s just a great class to take if you want to help others in return.”

The program allows participants to gain both a business and philanthropic perspective, giving a unique point of view to high school students. In order to utilize this opportunity to its fullest extent, students must want to learn and care about real-world issues.

McGowan said, “I think that you have to have a love for business and want to be involved in something bigger than yourself.”