



**FROM THE
EDUCATION
DIRECTORS
JEANNE
& JAMIE**

Food for Life

The students of Baltimore City's Hampstead Hill Academy are experiencing food and agriculture in a big way. The course, titled "Food for Life," introduces about 75 students

Students have had their hands in one of Baltimore's very first school gardens, from testing soils to planting seeds, watering, weeding and counting its sprouts. They will have help from nearby seniors in tending the garden over the summer.

Denise Jackson, a parent aide comments, "*Food for Life is the most creative, organized, and crucial program*

I have ever been involved in. What a wonderful thing for our children not only to learn to cook and eat healthy, but to be exposed to so many aspects of different cultures. I love it!"

aged 7 to 12 to the world of food, from planting vegetables and designing murals for the cafeteria to exploring how food affects their bodies. They also cook and sample nutritious foods from around the world.



Hampstead Hill Academy serves approximately 450 students in Pre-K through eighth grade, of which 83% are eligible for the Federal free and reduced lunch program. While healthier school lunches are a primary goal, Principal Matthew Hornbeck credits "Food for Life" with "educational enrichment." As he explains it, "*The program builds on what our students learn in science, math, social studies, language arts, music and art. I cannot praise this program enough for the benefits it has already had on our school community.*"

Hampstead Hill Academy's "Food for Life" program is a recipient of a 2005 MAEF Mini-Grant. Primary funding comes from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation of Baltimore.



**Literature Links
to Agriculture**

New Curriculum presented to National Audience

Literature Links to Agriculture and Baker's Dozen of Agricultural Lesson Plans were shared with all 50 states and presented at the National AITC Conference in Indianapolis held June 8-11. A PowerPoint presentation on the importance of agriculture accompanied the materials. The resources were developed as part of a \$10,000 National AITC grant received by MAEF last year. Future national AITC conferences include Atlantic City, New Jersey in 2006 and New Orleans, Louisiana in 2007.

**Baker's Dozen
of Agricultural Lesson Plans**