



West Seattle Bee Garden  
High Point Commons Park P-Patch  
Seattle, WA 98126  
[www.westseattlebeegarden.com](http://www.westseattlebeegarden.com)

May 19, 2015

Larry Nyland  
Superintendent, Seattle Public Schools

Dear Superintendent Nyland,

I am writing in support of the Middle College High School (MCHS) and the valuable service this school provides its students and the High Point community. As the manager of the West Seattle Bee Garden (WSBG), I have worked with teachers and students from MCHS for the past two years. MCHS students played an essential role in the creation of the WSBG in 2013, inspired by a video that was created for a crowd funding campaign. Without their help, the garden would not have been completed in time for its momentous opening in May 2013, when more than 500 community members and City leadership came to celebrate the arrival of honey bees into their new special home in High Point. The entire theme behind the WSBG is education and engaging community, and I will forever cherish the level of engagement, ownership and pride MCHS students, as well as their teacher Alonzo Ybarra, demonstrated in the creation of this project - and we have all learned so much along the way.

MCHS teachers and students have remained connected to the garden, and continue to play an important role in maintaining the space. MCHS has incorporated honey bees and other pollinators into their science curriculum and have requested more involvement at the WSBG. I only wish we had the resources to engage and include them more!

I am proud that a program such as MCHS exists in High Point, a neighborhood that seeks to provide support and hope to those who do not fit the average mold. I have spent time with MCHS students and seen them at work. They're good kids, and I have enjoyed my time with them on every occasion. The programming and support they receive at MCHS seems perfect to help guide these students toward a healthy and productive path, versus a significantly less ideal route that so many students in similar situations succumb to without proper guidance.

I have worked with the teachers at MCHS, who are caring and dedicated. Please provide them with the administrative and financial support they need to continue this much needed school and invaluable service to our students and community.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Englund, PharmD  
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Former High Point Neighborhood Association Board Member  
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