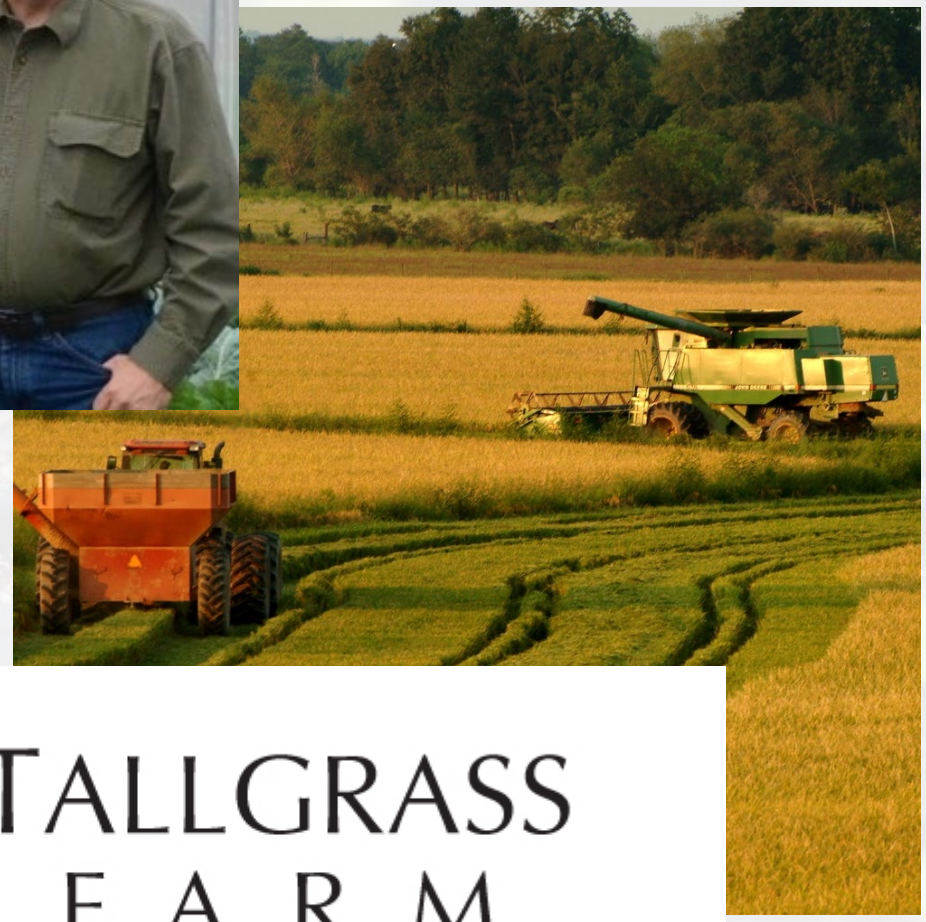
Better Together:
The Power of Partnerships

GROWING NEW CONNECTIONS

2023 Louisiana Farm to School Conference

Burt Tietje

- Tallgrass Farm
- Roanoke, LA



TALLGRASS FARM

Kory Holmes

- Istrouma Magnet High Agriscience Department
- East Baton Rouge Parish School System

Agriscience Program Video

Agriscience Program Website

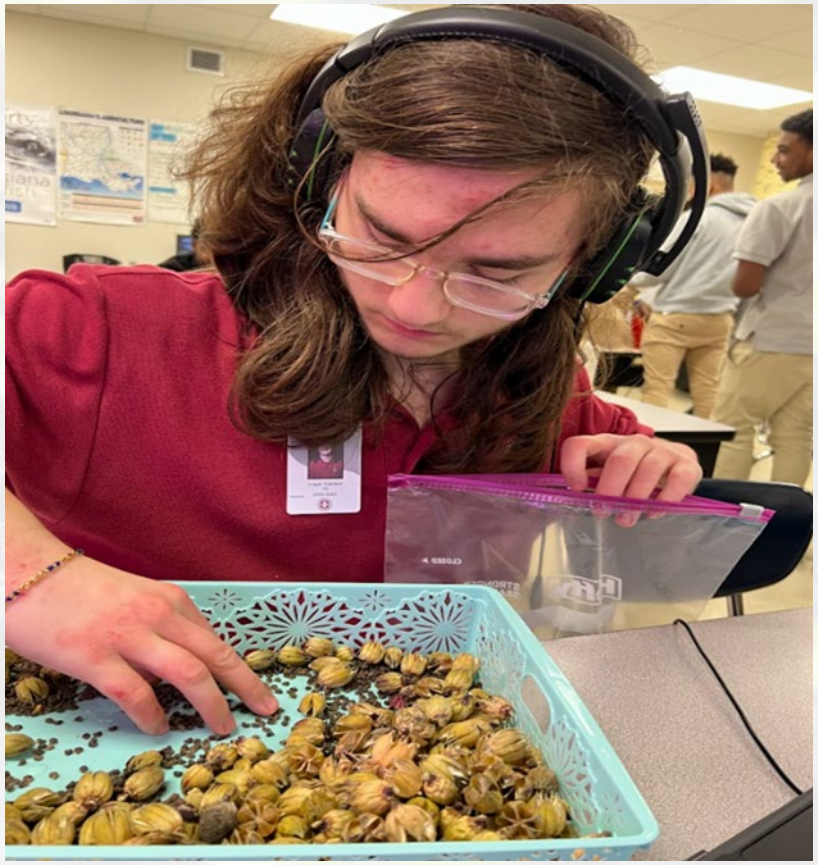
- https://sites.google.com.mcas.ms/view/istroumahighagriscience/home

Vision

- To develop careers through agriscience program
  - Classroom, field trips, FFA program
  - Collaboration with:
    - Hustle and Flow
    - Baton Roots
    - Southern University Agriculture

About the Istrouma High Agriscience Program

1. Program Website
2. Istrouma High Agriscience Program is designed to operate like a business
3. Students are involved in daily tasks that include:
   - Customer Service Certification,
   - After School Programs (Gardening/Horticulture),
   - Detailed training (SOP's: Standard Operating Procedures)
   - Agriscience class (Curriculum) – FFA program
   - Collaboration (Local businesses, culinary, & media arts program)
   - Sales/Marketing (Online/Gift shop)
   - Lab testing
   - Harvest/Packaging
   - R&D (Research and Development)



After School Program – Baton Roots

- Community Farm and Garden network in Baton Rouge
- By blending access to fresh food, skill-development, socialization, and art into one location, Baton Roots brings an opportunity for our community to learn best practices in sustainable agriculture on an urban farm.
- [Baton Roots website]

Notes on BREC's Howell Park:

- Address: 5509 Winbourne Ave, Baton Rouge, LA 70805
- Enter the park on Winbourne Ave. Turn right, and follow the driveway past the construction.
- Park in the lots near the basketball court. You will see the large white storage pod, as well as Baton Roots farm and garden sites in between the parking lot and Winbourne Ave."

Demonstration: Introduction to vermicomposting

Demonstration: Getting Ready for Spring

Bokashi: An easier way of composting

Customer Service

Customer Service: Students are taught skills and techniques on how to apply professional services to customers for any business or industry.

- Students can earn their certifications through the Customer Service Program

Even those who do not have direct experience working with customers can get started with customer service training. A customer service certification helps new hires prove they are committed to improving their knowledge and growing within the company. This is also important for companies that promote from within!

SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures)

- Students receive training on how to properly follow certain procedures in maintaining safety and daily functions in the science lab and on the outdoor farm land.
- Herbal spices
- Weigh Channel Catfish
- Water Quality parameters
- Harvest Produce
- Germination Station
- Cleaning systems
- Fertilizing Produce

FFA Chapter

- Students will take part in Istrouma High FFA Chapter where they will develop public speaking skills, conduct and participate in meetings, manage financial matters, strengthen problem-solving abilities and assume civic responsibilities.
    - Leadership skills. We all want our children to be successful. ...
    - Knowledge of agriculture. How do tractors run? ...
    - Healthy living. ...
    - Confidence. ...
    - Good sportsmanship. ...
    - Work ethic. ...
    - Community service. ...
    - Lifelong friendships.

Collaboration with the Community

- Istrouma High believes in collaborating with other organizations, groups, colleges, and universities to assist students in building relationships and community partnership.

Sales/Marketing

- Students will have the opportunity to practice sales and marketing strategies by operating the school online and brick and mortar gift shop on campus.

Lab Research

- Students will have opportunities to acquire skills as a lab research/technician as they explore water quality testing for hydroponic and soil-based plants and fish. Students will analyze data and conduct experiments regarding balancing nutrients, etc.

Harvesting/Packaging

- Students will learn the importance of harvesting and packaging produce for customers on a weekly basis.
- Stress the importance of customer service.
- Sanitation
- Fresh Produce
- Team work
- Efficiency

R&D (Research and Development)

- Students will explore and conduct experiments to test questions and theories in solving agricultural problems.
- Soil Research
- Nutrient parameters
- Hydroponic research
- Aquaponic research
- Animal research

Lab/Farm Tour(Hydroponics/Aquaculture System)

3D Lab Design

Istrouma High Lab systems

Our 1100 square-foot lab houses six-hydroponic tanks that can produce over 1700 heads of produce, a 3-260 gallon tank aquaculture system that can raise over 100 fish each, 12-Dutch bucket system primarily used for horticulture research, germination station for plant production, campus gift shop to support our sales and marketing department, and a custom-made germination lab that helps sustain produce.

TYPE OF SYSTEM	6- Hydroponic Systems	AST Aquaculture system technologies	Dutch bucket system	Washing, spinning, and drying station
BASIC COMPONENTS	Essential nutrients, vegetables, and water	Fish, water, bacteria	Nutrient solution, soil, water irrigation	Bubbler, spinners, and fan - drying
POTENTIAL PRODUCTION	288 plants per harvest - 1700 per month	250 minnows per tank - 3(260 gallon tanks)	12 plants per harvest	Station is designed for the preservation of fresh produce
AVERAGE RATE OF HARVEST	28-35 days after germination	Seasonal sales for bait fish	Depending on the type of plant	Produce freshness last up to 2 weeks
TOP CROP	Florida broadleaf Mustard Greens	Cocahoe minnows	Day Lillies	All crops go through this process
SPECIAL FEATURES	Water-based	Endurance 2000 filter	Water based	Fan drying

Food Security/Self-reliance (Meeting own food needs): SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) - Water quality testing, herbal station, weigh fish, and propagating techniques.

Highlights of our first Farm to Table for EBR teachers

- https://www.youtube.com.mcas.ms/watch?v=OLNltJuDvMs&t=12s

Goals for 2023-2024

1. Establish a 20x30 State of the Art Greenhouse to start a horticulture business.
2. Develop a tree business
3. Build a chicken coop to raise 10 chickens
4. Establish a Spring Farmer's Market for the EBR (Include all schools)

Chef Marc Krampe

- Social Southern Table & Bar
- Lafayette, LA

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY KITCHENS
restaurant group

Kristen VandeVen

- Tensas Academy,
  Garden Coordinator
- St. Joseph, LA

Questions?

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