

Pennsylvania Farm to School Network Success Story:

EXTRACT AND BOX SUPPORTS STUDENT BEEKEEPERS IN CHESTER COUNTY

Chester County, PA



Malvern Preparatory School and Montgomery School in Chester County have maintained successful beekeeping programs over the last five years with the mentorship of Tim Ferris of [Extract and Box](#), a Chester Springs beekeeping service providing apiary services across the region and selling [PA Preferred](#) honey.

In the early days of the beekeeping club at Malvern Preparatory School, Tim mentored the students in the full life cycle of bees, caring for the hives through seasonal changes and extracting honey for market. Today, the program is thriving

and has eight hives. Students participating in the club work to maintain healthy hives, prepare the bees for seasonal changes and create labels for their honey products.

This past spring, students harvested over 200 pounds of honey from their hives and, with the help of Extract and Box's facilities, turned that into 375 bottles of honey to sell in the school's bookstore and donate to the Chester County Food Bank.

"Beekeeping club is a thriving community partnership between a neighbor and the school. Our kids learn relevance from encountering others who care about their work and support their growth."

**-Tom McManus,
Head of Montgomery School**





“The boys are very proud of their club,” says James Fry, Director of the Malvern Ranch. “When we have club fairs, they drag students over to taste the dark and light honey and share the knowledge Tim has shared with them.”

“It’s an amazing story that embodies who we are as a school,” says Danielle Suber, Head of Inclusivity and Belonging. “Students can physically see their impact and will leave legacies that far outweigh them once they leave Malvern. One day they can show their families that their bees are still here!”

Similarly to Malvern Prep, Montgomery School has a beekeeping program that Tim helped initiate and has continued to help maintain. In addition to the club, the bees are included in the K-8th grade curriculum, where students learn about the lifecycles of insects, food webs and the importance of pollinators and native flowers.



Malvern Preparatory School students

“My favorite part of the beekeeping club,” says 8th grader Abby, “is seeing the fancy beekeeping machines and how they fill the hundreds of honey jars. It is so cool to see how so many jars of honey are filled by only a few people. By joining the beekeeping club, I've learned that bees aren't actually very aggressive and probably won't sting you if you're just being calm. Bees are one of the most important pollinators in the world and help support growing plants and food production.”





This club is a unique experience for the students, who enjoy contributing to the overall process while learning from an expert in the field.

“Beekeeping club is a thriving community partnership between a neighbor and the school,” says Head of Montgomery School, Tom McManus. “Our kids learn relevance from encountering others who care about their work and support their growth.”

To learn more about Extract and Box, visit extractandbox.com.



Malvern Preparatory School honey



Montgomery School students

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