



April showers bring May virtual learning

By Sarah Hilby



This second quarter as a Farm to School AmeriCorps member had smooth sailing at the start. Students were not only engaging with my nutrition lessons, but also applying the information they learned from our interactions to outside the classroom experiences. During lunch I would have multiple students come up to me and exclaim, "Miss Sarah, I have all five food groups on my tray today!" Other times students would ask for help identifying what food group the Try It was in. It was amazing and encouraging to see how my work in the schools was changing students' perceptions about nutrition and trying new foods. For the most recent Try It, I dressed up in a pea pod costume and served samples of edamame. The kids loved it! One student even came up and said, "Okay, I'm only going to try it because you wore a weird costume" and he ended up really liking the edamame!



I was just gearing up with the Oregon School District for the exciting adventure of spring planting in the school gardens when face to face instruction was stopped due to COVID-19. Now there seems to be more questions than answers. It is in strange times like this that I go back to the basics and look to the AmeriCorps pledge for inspiration:

I will get things done for America - to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.

Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.

Faced with adversity, I will persevere. Together we will help each other continue to get things done for America and to persevere as trailblazers. We must be creative and find new ways to connect with our students from afar. Instead of guiding their hands and showing them how to plant seeds in the soil of the school gardens, we must challenge our students instead to be independent and guide their minds to begin their own gardens and compost piles at home. We will all stick to our promise to strengthen our communities and get things done, even if it is not in the ways we originally planned.

