



2017–18 Curriculum: Feeding Our Cities

The 2017–18 Global Scholars curriculum explores the global food system and its impact on cities around the world. Students learn about nutrition and food access and their influence on public health. They discover the complex systems needed to grow and distribute food to the world. At the end of the year, students create community action projects to address global food issues in their cities.



Unit 1: Introduction to Global Scholars

Students are oriented to Global Scholars and the e-classroom. They write their first discussion posts to introduce themselves and share traditional foods that represent their cities. Students learn how to communicate with peers across cultures and share video projects about what it means to be a Global Scholar.



Unit 2: Nourishing Ourselves and Our Cities

Students explore basic principles of nutrition and investigate the health impact of processed foods and sugar. They learn how issues such as obesity and access to healthy food affect public health, and what cities can do. Students build media literacy skills by analyzing how advertisements and social media influence what we eat.



Unit 3: Growing the Food We Need

Students learn about the global system that produces our fruit, vegetables, grains, meat and seafood; and they consider how climate change impacts our food supply. Students develop critical thinking skills as they analyze whether innovations such as underwater farming and biotechnology make our food system more sustainable.



Unit 4: Delivering Food to the World

Students learn how food gets from the farm to their plates through a network of global food-supply chains. They consider how geography, transportation, and current events affect food availability. Students brainstorm creative solutions to food waste and learn about organizations working to ensure food for all.



Unit 5: Community in Action

Students reflect on what they have learned about nutrition and food security and design a project that addresses one of these topics. Together with their classmates, they look to cities around the world for inspiration as they implement solutions within their own city.

What is Global Scholars?

Global Scholars is an international digital exchange program that connects students ages 10 to 13 in cities around the world. Guided by their teachers, students participate in a project-based curriculum and engage with international peers in an interactive e-classroom. They investigate the world and develop global competency skills for the 21st century—cross-cultural and digital communication, critical thinking, and collaboration. Students broaden their perspectives by discovering common experiences and exploring issues through personal, local, and global lenses.

Global Cities, Inc. provides the curriculum, access to the password-protected e-classroom, and year-long professional development. The program is conducted in English, and students with a variety of English language fluency levels can successfully participate.

Participating schools provide at least one computer or tablet with a reliable internet connection for every two students, two hours per week for program activities, and an enthusiastic educator to lead activities and participate in required professional development. There are no fees to participate.