

Amy J. Sidran

CAREER

The Hotchkiss School • Lakeville, CT 06039 •

Farm Education Coordinator & Instructor in Humanities (August 2020 – Present)

Key Accomplishments: Connecting the community through farm education

- Created new farm/food based class, developed alliances with Faculty wishing to utilize the Farm as a living classroom. Identified and mentored students with strong interests in food justice and sustainable agriculture to empower them to engage with food systems work.
- Forged relationships with the Dining Director, food pantries and local farms to connect students with our local food system.
- Developed partnerships with a variety of classes including Intro Chemistry to test pH soil levels and Agroecology to begin longitudinal soil carbon sequestration study with OurSci and OpenTeam.
- Established the Community Garden at the Fairfield farm for Hotchkiss staff and faculty members.
- Planned Eco-Day curriculum and volunteer activities for 800 faculty, staff and students.
- Served as Interim Farm Manager for the Winter and Spring season of 2021.

Core Job Responsibilities: Orchestrate all educational activity at Fairfield farm at The Hotchkiss School.

- Collaborate with Farm Manager on educational programming to further student engagement with food and farming, creating socially just food systems.
- Teach classes each semester, including “Sustainable Food Systems” and act as guest lecturer on a variety of topics.
- Develop curriculum and lead our fall and spring co-curricular program, FFEAT (FAirfield Farm Ecosystem and Adventure Team.) and SOAR after school program for students in grades 3-6.
- Engage Hotchkiss Faculty at the farm. • Facilitate continued growth of farm-based and place based curricula during academic year and Summer Portals.
- Design and implement educational events for staff and community partners on topics including wreath making, foraging local plants, sustainability, and organic farming practices (ex. seed saving).

Carol Morgan School • Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Middle School Science Teacher • Grades 6 and 8 (August 2016 - 2020)

- Developed curriculum for experiential science classes aligned with NGSS standards. Collaborated with

grade level teams to create interdisciplinary units that focused on exploratory learning, deep engagement, and place-based learning.

Garden Coordinator • Elementary and Middle School

- Initiated and co-facilitated permaculture workshops for teachers and staff working with local Dominican partners to educate the greater school community on best practices in permaculture gardening.
- Garden focuses on sustainability, Dominican culture, and learning exploration. Curriculum planning with ES/MS lead teachers and staff.

Fort Vancouver High School • Vancouver, WA • August 2005 - June 2015

Horticulture Science and Advanced Horticulture Science Teacher

- Successfully developed, launched, and managed a new Horticulture science program with a 1,500 sq foot greenhouse and 1 acre diversified organic farm. Managed and established seasonal plant sales fundraisers including wreaths, paperwhites and annual Mother's Day Sale with sales totaling \$6,000.
- Created and integrated interactive hands-on curricula for Advanced Horticulture Science class focused on organic nursery management, organic gardening, permaculture, and animal husbandry. Articulated classes with Clackamas Community College for college credits.

Hand to Mouth Organic Farm • Eugene, Oregon • May - November 2003

Organic Farmer

- Assisted in all aspects of organic farming including: seeding, planting, soil preparation both manual and mechanical, greenhouse management, harvesting, and marketing.
- Managed weekly deliveries to CSA and grocery stores.

Thanksgiving Farm • Harris, NY • May - November 2002

Assistant Farm Manager

- Managed a crew of three workers including a group of developmentally disabled adults that worked on the farm. Managed bi-weekly CSA produce pick-up for over 150 members.
- Organized daily farm plan including: field preparation, seeding, transplanting, harvesting, and irrigation.

EDUCATION

MSAG, Masters of Science in Agriculture, Washington State University, Pullman, WA • 2020

- **Thesis paper:** "Growing Successful School Gardens: *Creating an effective and sustainable classroom in the*

natural world.”

Graduate Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture, WSU Pullman, WA • 2020

MAT, Masters of Arts in Teaching, Pacific University, Eugene, OR • 2004

Peace Corps Language Training, Cochabamba, Bolivia • January - March 1999

School for Field Studies, Center for Sustainable Development, Atenas, Costa Rica • Fall 1992

B.S., Natural Resource Management (Major), Wildlife and Fisheries Biology (Minor), UMASS, Amherst, MA • 1994

CERTIFICATES

Career and Technical Education, Washington State • 2009 - Present

- Horticulture Science, Natural Resources, Career Choices and Worksite Learning Coordinator

Washington State Teaching License, Washington State • 2005 - Present

- General Science, Biology, AP Environmental Science

Peace Corps Volunteer, Agriculture Extension Volunteer, Bolivia, 1999-2000

PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

2022: Growing Successful and Sustainable School Gardens, *Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society Conference*

2022: FFEAT @ Hotchkiss's Fairfield Farm, *Independent School Experiential Education Network Conference*

2021: Growing Successful and Sustainable School Gardens, *National Children and Youth Garden Symposium*

2019: Sustainable School Gardens, *Farm Based Education Network Conference*

2016: *Honorable Mention*, Clark County Public Health Award, *Vancouver, WA*

2014: Gordon and Silvia MacWilliams Evergreen Award, *Vancouver, WA*

2008-10: Washington State Green Schools Level 1 and 2 Award, *Fort Vancouver HS*

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

[Interview with Jonathan Safran Foer](#), *The Salisbury Forum*, February 2022

[Students Connect With Local Farmers](#), *The Hotchkiss Record*, February 2022

For Farm Education Coordinator Amy Sidran, [Every Day Is Earth Day](#), *The Hotchkiss School*, April 2021

[The New Faces Presiding Over Fairfield Farm](#), *The Hotchkiss Record*, May 2021

[Following The Food Growing Path](#), *Hotchkiss Science Connections*, *The Hotchkiss School*, April 2021

[Lakeville: Farming For The Future virtual presentation with Amy Sidran](#), *CT Insider*, January 2021

[The Greenhouse](#), Gardening Series - Spring Planting, *Vancouver School District, WA.*, 2013 - 2015

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Intermediate in reading, writing, and speaking.