A Sensory Garden at Sterling would certainly be a creative and exciting way to provide our students with a healthy, attractive, and educational environment. Packed with a wide variety of aromatic plants and flowers, this garden can also include wind chimes, children’s 3D art projects, flags, decorative sculpture, and pinwheels. The whole objective of the sensory garden is to invite all the senses to participate, as well as promote a healthy curiosity of the natural environment for our children.

There are many options available for plantings: ornamental grasses, groundcover, small shrubs, annuals, perennials, and, of course, edible plants. Sensory variety is important – plantings that vary in height, texture, color, and scent. Some examples can include: Sage, Thyme, Chives, Lemon Verbena, Mint, Bee Balm, Lemon Balm, Sedums, Lamb’s Ears, and colorful groundcovers such as Ajuga and Moss. Small shrubs such as Lavender and Rosemary will enhance this garden, as well as edibles such as strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries.

Estimated Cost: $5,000
2. BOCCE BALL

Bocce Ball would be a wonderful addition to our outdoor environment.

It is a social activity that can be played with two, four or eight players divided among two teams. Bocce ball affords students the opportunity to strategically plan with their teammates as well as work on their coordination.

A moderately sized bocce court is typically about 8 to 10 feet wide and 60 feet long. The border of the court is made simply from wood and the final playing surface is made from sand.

Estimated Cost: $1,000

3. SHADE STRUCTURE

While spending time outdoors, shade structures would provide a welcome relief from the sun for our students and staff. The shade structures would cover the playground in between the B and C buildings as well as the field that lies directly next to it.

Shade structures not only help to protect our students from harmful UV rays, but they also help to shield our playground equipment from the elements.

Estimated Cost: TBD
4. VOLLEYBALL COURT

An Outdoor Volleyball Court would be a valuable addition to our physical education program.

Sports Equipment needed would include:

The court: an outdoor volleyball court that measures 18 x 9 meters, surrounded by a free zone, which is 2 meters wide along each side.

The net: the net is 32 ft. long by 3 ft. wide, and is supported by two posts which are round, smooth, and padded to prevent injury.

Lines: the court is marked by two sidelines and two end lines. All lines marked must be 2 inches wide and drawn in a color that is easily discernable.

Estimated Cost: $5,000

5. GARAGE

Our school is in need of a new space to store equipment and work on facilities projects. Our current sheds are no longer weather proof, meaning any work that is done must be moved to a different location at the end of each day. In addition, any items stored in the sheds may be exposed to rain or snow.

In place of the sheds, we would like to build a larger, multi-purpose garage. This garage would have ample storage and could be used as a workspace for our facilities staff. In addition, having a building like this would open up the opportunity for our school to offer shop classes in the future.

Estimated Cost: 100,000

6. ARTIFICIAL LAWN
Installation of an artificial lawn will require an initial survey and preparation of the area. Artificial grass is available in a variety of types and styles, and quality depends on cost per square foot.

There are three components to artificial grass: the bottom layer is usually made of latex, the middle layer contains a foam material to provide cushioning, and finally the top layer, which is made up of the actual blades of nylon grass. Drainage holes are built in to all three layers to prevent any pooling of water from heavy rains.

Estimated Cost: $80,000-100,000

7. RUBBER RUNNING TRACK

A quality Running Track would also be a valuable addition to Sterling’s physical education program. Rubber would be the perfect material for Sterling’s track, as it not only provides durability, it is a safer surface for our students.

This project involves a professional installer to survey the land to assess the limitations of the area and drainage concerns. Part of the project will include stations along the track.

Estimated Cost: $110,000

8. FRISBEE GOLF
Frisbee Golf, or Disc Golf, would be another wonderful addition to our physical education program. It is an inexpensive, accessible outdoor activity that can be played as an organized game or as “goal” practice. Frisbees and goals are needed to play.

Estimated Cost: $1,000