

Maryland Green School Summary

Since our initial Maryland Green School award in 2003 and our second recertification in 2007, Pocomoke Middle School has worked diligently to sustain and expand the programs we originally put into place. Moving forward to 2011, we have continued to look for new and innovative ways to protect our green planet from inside and outside our school building.

As a Maryland Green School, Pocomoke Middle School's staff and students have continued to teach and learn about environmental and ecological issues. Our staff is aware of the importance of being able to educate our students about the many environmental issues that not only affect our locality, but our world. The mission as set forth in the Governor's Children in Nature initiative is one we believe in. Providing outdoor learning experiences and teaching our students how to take care of the world around them is a vital part of our job. In light of the importance of creating a generation of environmental stewards, our students participate in numerous outdoor learning experience including, Lady Maryland Adventure, Environmental Education Experience at Assateague and the local YMCA, canoe trips on the Pocomoke River, and Service Learning Projects focused on shoreline cleanup and rain garden construction . During each of our recertification periods, a student has been part of our nominations committee. This year, one of our 8th grade students has taken an active and vocal part in helping our committee gather the information needed in the portfolio.

Local and state staff development and inservice opportunities keep our teachers on top of new curriculum and issues related to the environment. For example, our teachers have faithfully participated in earth science, life science, and environmental academies during the summer and throughout the school year since 2003. Education is the integral component that will allow future generations to successfully help create interdependence in maintaining a healthy and vibrant green planet. In our school building the entire staff works at solid waste reduction, energy conservation, and maintaining a healthy school environment. For example, our recycling program started in 2001 has expanded, and in 2011 we now recycle juice pouches, paper products, plastics, aluminum, ink cartridges, batteries, cell phones, and small electronics. Not only is recycling done in classrooms, it's done in the hallways, offices, cafeteria, and in outside areas of our school. Our school sustains partnerships in the community by painting storm drains in and around our city and providing our students' insight into city park usage to our city mayor. Our community has become familiar with our emphasis on environmental and outdoor education through articles in the local newspapers.

Being a Maryland Green School is an honor. It is not something that has stopped once our school earned its recognition. The activities, educational opportunities, and procedures which have grown out of our pursuit of becoming a Green School are now habits for us, and we're very proud of that!

Top Five List – What we are most proud of:

1. Partnerships with local agencies to provide outdoor environmental programs to all 6th and 8th graders
2. Service Learning projects for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are environmentally based
3. After school academies are in place which focus on recycling, horticulture, and the Chesapeake Bay
4. School wide recycling program for ink cartridges, juice pouches, cell phones, batteries, small electronics, paper and plastic, and aluminum
5. Our staff participates in a wide variety of staff development programs relating to environmental science