

Part B: Summary of Green School Activities

Boca Raton Christian School (BRCS) has worked on developing, engaging, and educating students about current environmental issues. BRCS has a fundamental belief that all students and adults should be good stewards of our creation and natural resources, and should develop life long habits that promote sustainability. We strive to meet these goals by inspiring students to love our world through tangible, hands-on activities, thought-provoking challenges, tangible community involvement and inspiring guest speakers. In addition, students participate in educational field trips that provoke a hunger to learn and generate greater awareness about our earth's vulnerability.

BRCS has made every effort to add native plants on our campus that are environmentally friendly. We currently have a butterfly garden with both host and nectar plants to attract butterflies. We have documented six varieties. Students from elementary to high school go to the garden to learn about the life cycle of the butterfly. The "Environmental Club" takes an active role in maintaining and exciting others to take part in our Green School initiative. A vegetable garden is on campus for all to enjoy. We had an abundance of eggplants and tomatoes that we were able to share with, Boca Helping Hands, who feeds local families in need. Students from elementary to high school are involved in sprouting, planting, maintaining the gardens and harvesting vegetables. We added a Tower Garden this year and several plant signs were added to educate about the names of plants on campus. We received a grant for a 3D printer, which is going to be used by our Robotics club, and the cool thing is, it uses water bottles to make the new plastic pieces.

Energy and water conservation is an area we would like to improve. Because our school is affiliated with the church we do not have full reign on the whole property and the exact usage is difficult to calculate since we share some of the facilities. However, cutting costs while conserving energy is shared among the faculty and discussed in class. Each classroom, signs are displayed by air conditioner switches to turn off the air conditioning when leaving a room and turn off light switch signs are posted by each door. Students created conservation signs, which are posted in the restrooms to remind students to turn water off and limit paper towel usage. Carpooling is encouraged and lists are available of families who would like to carpool. Recycling has been part of our school for many years. We have a group of students who gather the items and place them in the designated place for pick up. Each year there is greater involvement with the students collecting the recyclables. All classrooms have bins and the students have made reminder signs to use the recycle bins. This year we began recycling Capri Sun pouches and chip bags with Terra Cycle. Students created a special collection box, which we entered in their box contest!

Integration of environmental lessons is incorporated into our curriculum instruction from the youngest of our students to our high school environmental

studies class. Classes teach on recycling, conservation, life cycles, and local habitats, such as the Everglades, beaches, and the disappearing Florida scrub. Issues such as the Gulf oil spill, and xeriscaping are studied and discussed. Science fair projects have been researched about saving energy, use of energy saving light bulbs, and germination of seeds, to name a few.