

Part B: Summary of Green School Activities

Dr. David L. Anderson Middle School is proud to present this application for Green School Recognition 2014-15. Last year with the collaboration among our community, administration, staff, and students we proudly accepted the Green School of Quality Recognition. This year our goal has been to continue developing our school's environmental mission by developing school-wide environmentally sustainable ownerships across the curriculum and campus atmosphere using the Green School Program indicators as our focus.

Anderson Middle School is a relatively new campus at only nine years of age. This is our second year to participate in the Green Schools Program. This year our focus centered within maintaining, restoring, and deepening our environmental sustainable practices such as completing phase 2 of the Outdoor Learning Lab, increasing vegetable garden harvests, inspiring a larger group of teachers to move their curriculum outdoors towards greener education, and to build a stronger community partnerships. AMS' Green Team continues to grow as teachers, parents, and community members begin to discover how we are going green at AMS. As a visitor you would easily learn that our 29 acre campus is filled with environmentally sound practices and open for opportunities to deepen students' understanding of sustainable living.

Immersed throughout the school are refreshing reminders that being an Earth-friendly school is a top priority. Our campus lends itself to many opportunities to move learning from the classroom to the outdoors since we have a watershed, a retention pond, and beautiful native plants and wildlife garden. This year, with the help of various grants and community partnerships we've been able to enhance our campus with raised garden beds, irrigation drip lines, an outdoor gardening shed to store all our tools, and wildflower gardens from seeds to flowers. Recently added, with the combined efforts of Boy Scout Skyler Peyton, and his fellow scouts, were four full-size picnic tables each with large forest green umbrellas to protect our students from the Florida sun and a starter compost bin. Just as last year, the Green Team and our administrators supported cross-curricular, hands-on activities that engaged our students in active roles within environmental issues and sustainable practices. It's clear that our goal is to inspire our students to act responsibly and become active citizens.

AMS is using every opportunity as a chance to move forward into what we call the next phase of the Green School mission. We are now working with additional Boy Scouts to move our Outdoor Learning Lab into phase 2 which includes nestboxes for kestrels, a pollinator garden and wildflower meadow. We also have a sensory garden in the planning phase and coming to our campus in April.

We frequently meet with our district LEED AP, GGP, Operations Manager to monitor our energy and water use. On a daily basis, we have open communication and support from our school plant operator and his staff to maintain and improve our school grounds.

This year, AMS program developers and Green School Team Leaders, Melissa DuBois and Kirsi Johnson, have observed that teachers from every department are employing various areas of the campus to cover curriculum through real-world applications. These teach environmental practices that will carry into their adulthood. We also observed an increase in teachers taking on individual green practices like recycling water bottles, cola cans, and creating e-lessons for our students to save on their thumb drive or the student drive instead of printing worksheets. In addition, a huge increase in student participation in afterschool Green Thumb Club and Native Keepers Club is a clear sign of increased awareness. Clubs such as Builder's Club are thriving with community involvement projects and wellness challenges with direct student leadership from beginning to end; making our school community take notice of our green efforts. AMS' administrators blend in with students in the garden, run laps in the health challenges, and play basketball with students. Our entire AMS community loves investigating like scientists, conducting math concepts in nature, reading a good book in fresh air, and nature writing.

Sustainability is valued at AMS. With the mindset of conserving resources, students, staff, and teachers recycle in all classrooms, offices, and our cafeteria. Martin County School District is 100% on board and is setting

new challenges for schools. Energy efficient strategies are in place throughout our EPA Energy Star campus. We use methods to keep temperatures cool in the classrooms and to cut back on our energy consumption; it was reported that last year we saved over 33,000,000kwh of electricity usage district-wide.

It's important to our school body that we maintain good health, encourage a healthy lifestyle, and eat well. This is why teachers across campus have integrated healthy eating and planning lessons. Our Builder's Club teacher, Mrs. Koeppel, recently challenged our students to train for a 5k and Medical Academy teacher, Mrs. Ganton, completed a healthy heart/cardiac diet planning unit with all her medical students. Looking down with a bird's-eye view, one would see our campus fully engaged in healthy practices. Even our administration occasionally pull on their headbands, basketball shorts, and tie back their hair for a good game of basketball with our students. Students have many opportunities to engage in activities like, soccer, volleyball, twirling club, basketball, cheerleading, along with our physical education department. District-wide the Martin County School District annually hosts a healthy living wellness fair for all employees and their families to attend.

The Green Team has made a difference in transportation and air pollution. Water conservation is a priority at AMS and we have units of study and conservation practices in place.

Community involvement has surged here at AMS this year; we've formed additional partnerships in our efforts to become a Green School! The Boy Scouts, FPL, Farms to Schools, FAU's Pine Jog Environmental Studies Center, Palm City Natives have all given support to our environmental goals. One of our Green School leaders, Kirsi Johnson was recently been appointed as a Florida Native Plant Society board member in Education and Outreach. Kirsi was the keynote speaker at the monthly meeting in March sharing the progress of AMS' green school endeavors and goals with the public. In addition, we've formed partnerships with The Education Foundation of Martin County, and the Master Gardeners of Martin County.

The greatest aspect of the growth of our Green School efforts is the support our administration lends to all our ideas, the needs, and the training we set out to try. It's clear that they are invested in our school's environmental and sustainable philosophy and yearn to be a Green School of Excellence this year.