

## Part B – Summary of 2014-2015 Green School Activities

Jupiter High School (JHS) is very proud to have been designated as a Green School of Excellence since 2009. We continue to strive to help our school community become even more ecologically minded. At JHS, we have many groups which help in our endeavors, but one in particular, leads the way; the Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy (JERFSA). This academy is one of Florida's premier environmental magnet programs, leading the way in environmentally focused learning and service. Through the intensive ecologically focused curriculum, field trip experiences, environmental service, environmentally focused school projects and community partnerships of JERFSA, Jupiter High School is proud to carry on the mission of striving towards environmental awareness and stewardship.

### How is Jupiter High School representative of a Green School? Here are some of the highlights:

- **Academics** - JHS offers the following courses which have a strong focus on environmental principals: AP Environmental Science, Regular Environmental Science, Biology, Earth Science, Agricultural Science, AICE Marine Science and Marine Science (regular). Within the academy, JERFSA continues to provide its students with a wide range of rigorous science courses. Students in JERFSA are enrolled in the following courses during their first two years at JHS: Experimental Science, AICE Marine Science, AICE Thinking Skills, Honors Biology, and Honors Chemistry. These courses, along with the numerous scheduled field trips and guest speakers, build and enhance our students understanding of the principles of ecology and environmental conservation thus preparing them for further study of the environment in their junior and senior years. During students third and fourth years in JERFSA, they are offered AP Environmental Science, Zoology, Research and various Palm Beach State College classes in the fields of Oceanography, Botany and Horticulture, Environmental Geology, Ecological Sampling, Florida Environmental History, GIS Systems, and others. With all that the JERFSA program has to offer, students may earn as many as 24 hours of college credit during their four years in this program (without having to leave campus). Some of our students elect to participate in the Pine Jog Fellowship and other out-of-school opportunities, earning even more credit and bringing their environmental knowledge out into the community.
- **Field Experience** - A special focus of the JERFSA experience is its field-based EcoStudies program. Students have the opportunity to study many different habits first hand, such as: coral reefs, mangroves, estuaries, flatwoods, hammock, scrub, ponds, marshes, freshwater swamps, and the entire KOE Ecosystem from the Kissimmee River to Lake Okeechobee to Everglades National Park. On top of that, every other spring break and summer break, a group of JERFSA Juniors and Seniors participate in a Rainforest EcoStudy in the tropics (Panama) and/or a trip to participate in the Greater Yellowstone EcoStudy in Montana/Wyoming.
- **“EnviroService”** - JHS continues in its long record of service-learning opportunities resulting in habitat improvement and restoration in the larger community. JERFSA's 10<sup>th</sup> grade EnviroService program sends teams of students out into the community to work alongside resource professionals to do cleanups, plantings, trail work, etc. Our students work with many different organizations such as Loxahatchee River District, Riverbend County Park and many different natural lands units managed by PBC ERM. During each service day, students complete over 150 hours of habitat restoration work, with over 22,000 hours served to date and over 633 hours completed this 2014/2015 school year. The enviroservice hours are above and beyond a student's regular school volunteer hours. All JHS students are required to complete 50 volunteer hours for graduation, but

the JERFSA graduates are required to perform 200 hours of community service work in order to receive the JERFSA medal and certificate; most elect to do environmental service work. To date, over 170,000 hours of community service have been reported by our JERFSA students.

- **Recycling Program** – We have found that one challenge to keeping a recycling program going in a school as big as ours is collection. To help ensure that students and staff at JHS continue to recycle, our JERFSA Enviroservice teams go to each classroom/office to personally empty the bins on a routine basis.
- **Senior Project** - JERFSA seniors are required to complete a senior project. Most elect to do environmentally-centered projects focusing on environmental education or environmental restoration.
- **Pine Jog Fellowship** - Several JHS students participate each year in the Pine Jog Fellowship, in which they are required to devise and execute environmental service effort engaging groups of young people in the process. Many of these projects involve some element of habitat work.
- **The "Burma Shave" Eco-sign Project** - In an effort to help reduce traffic congestion at pick-up times on our campus while at the same time reducing both resource waste and air pollution, we have posted signs in the parent drop-off area that present ideas about environmental topics that we hope will inspire a re-thinking of transportation practices. Signs include the following messages:
  - *Are you driving... just one kid? C-A-R-P-O-O-L!! The Earth will be glad you did!*
  - *There are no passengers... on Planet Earth... We are all crew... The Earth is impacted... by what YOU do.*
  - *Open your window... reach for the keys... shut off your engine... enjoy the breeze... ten minutes of idling puts an extra pound of CO<sub>2</sub> into the air! And it gets you NOWHERE!*The signs are fabricated on metal plates with the help of our woodshop instructor of materials that will last for many years. Our hope is that these gentle reminders will make a difference.
- **Green Tuesdays** - is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year at JHS, and features weekly 60-to-90-second broadcasts aired as a feature of the JHS morning announcements. These PSA's cover matters of environmental concern, and most suggest actions that individuals can undertake to make a difference for conservation. They are written and produced by the president of the Green Initiative Club as part of her senior research project.
- **Visiting Scientist Lecture Series:** Co-sponsored by the Taras Oceanographic Foundation, JHS enjoys its eleventh year of bringing scientists from a variety of disciplines to share their work with students, teachers, and the general public in its monthly lecture series. This past year, two JERFSA students presented during one of the lectures. In their presentation, they educated the audience about the dangers of not properly disposing monofilament fishing line. They explained how the monofilament and recycling program works and where to find bins in northern Palm Beach County.
- **Envirothon Competition** - JHS participated in the regional Envirothon competition. JERFSA continued our record of excellence by dominating the 2015 Palm Beach Regional Envirothon, our 19<sup>th</sup> district championship. JHS Envirothon teams have won the Florida Envirothon seven times and have placed as high as 6<sup>th</sup> in national competition, a record unmatched by any Florida school. The JERFSA Envirothon team plans to attend the 2015 State Envirothon Competition in April.