

SUMMARY

Manatee Community Elementary School in Lake Worth was very excited to be recognized for the first time as a “Green School of Promise” in 2014 and proud to continue our journey through the Green School process. We have laid the foundation for environmental and health awareness for several years. Our goals now include continuing to educate our students, staff and community on the importance of making lifestyle choices for the sustainable future of our planet. In this application, it is our goal to demonstrate all of the ways in which we are working towards becoming more “Green”.

In order to help make our students more appreciative of nature, and the environment, we have several areas on campus in which we have completed **School Grounds Enhancement**. In the center of Building 1, we have a beautiful courtyard with benches for students to sit at as they observe nature. Many teachers take time to modify classroom instruction so students get more exposure to nature.

During the past few years, our school has been actively working towards **School Sustainability**. We have begun to incorporate “Green” & Healthy fundraising practices on campus. Additionally, Manatee continues to recycle and encourage our students to reuse when possible. When it comes to transportation, parents are our biggest ally as they support students walking and biking to campus.

The faculty at Manatee implement environmentally friendly strategies through **Curriculum Integration**. Fine Arts Rotations, such as Science Lab and Physical Education, tie environmental and health into their curriculum that reaches all students. Classroom teachers plan Field trips to local Nature Centers that allow our students the ability to investigate nature first-hand.

Our school demonstrates significant **Community Involvement**. Within the school, we coordinate recycling and students reuse resources. We have developed partnerships with local schools that allow us to share our resources. In our neighborhood, we work with local businesses and organizations.

Administrative Support has been an integral component to helping our school become “green”. Through the joint effort of administration, faculty and staff we have shared our successful green practices. Additionally, teachers, staff and administrators from our school attend events such as the “Learn Green” conference to gain specific training in green practices while also collaborating with other schools to find out best practices.

As we began our “Green” endeavors last year, many faculty members were eager to share ideas for a large scale activity that our school could plan and implement. Through a concept that was a sure example of **Innovation**, the school planned to hold a book swap at the Literacy Week evening event. The event was an overwhelming success and will hopefully become an annual event.