

Part B: Summary of Green School Activities: The Benjamin School is a pre-K 3 through 12 independent school that is committed to sustainability.

IA The school grounds have over 50 varieties of trees and an abundance of plant diversity. The school grounds are used as a classroom, and various grade levels cultivate gardens. The Lower and Middle School both require students to be on litter patrols, and the Middle school has an organized student led recycling program that requires students to recycle their lunches and then consolidate the waste in the proper receptacles .

IB. To improve habitat at the school, environmental club tackles various problems and cultivates their garden. Our upcoming Green Day will be a day of service to our campus and the community. We will be engaging each school club to come up with a green initiatives to better our campus or the community on that day. On Martin Luther King day, members of the entire school community participated in a gleaning at a local farm..

IIA. Our new Sustainability Committee is pricing automated light switches for the Middle School classrooms and is having a presentation by a local engineer at its next meeting about installing energy efficient A/C systems. We have replaced more windows with impact resistant tinted glass to save energy.

IIB: Our BASH annual fundraising is now paper free, using BIDPAL for use during its auction. Benjamin only fundraises for one pre-arranged charity a year which is decided by a committee. The Sustainability Committee is currently filling out several applications that would make our school wide giving project for 2015 be a sustainable one..

IIC. Benjamin is committed to the health of students and faculty. Free exercises classes are offered for staff members. Benjamin's lunch vendor prepares its food in purposefully healthy ways; nutrition is part of the Physical Education curriculum. Physical Education is offered twice a week.

IID. Our Middle School recycling program is underway. Each week student advisories are nominated to oversee the recycling at lunch and break and consolidate the recycling at a main area. A third grader who has taken it upon herself to initiate recycling in the Lower School spoke at the February Sustainability Committee to faculty and was instrumental in facilitating buy in in the other divisions. The 8th grade is forming a strategic plan to train the high school to implement our recycling program in the Middle School. The Middle School is collecting shoes for Soles for Souls.

IIE. We are organizing a school wide car pool on Green Day. Carpooling is effected between our two campuses (7 miles apart) with buses so that a parent need not drive to both campuses. We bus participants to weekend charitable events such as The Race for the Cure.

IIF. The high school is participating in USAUS-H2O ,an initiative to educate and inform responsible stewardship of water resources between U.S. and Australian student teams.

III A. The overarching theme of the Middle School science curriculum is Sustainability, and this curriculum extends to other disciplines. Students apply the lessons they learn about sustainability in Science to their study of the book *Zeitoun* in English which chronicles Hurricane Katrina and presents the problems of global warming. Students also apply their science lessons in sustainability by participating in the Middle School wide recycling initiative. All students are responsible on a rotating basis for consolidating the recycling on campus after lunch. We are in talks to bring sustainable author Lynne Cherry to the Lower School

IIIB. Our student newspaper has reported on our need for recycling in the Middle School and has been instrumental in the program's success. One of our student clubs run by a green architect focuses on creating sustainable inventions and will enter the Energy Whiz Olympic Contests at the Florida Solar Energy Center. Student clubs will undertake green improvement of the campus for our day of service on our Green Day

IIIC. The 6th grade curriculum studies Florida environment and students participate in habitat restoration and a three day environmental trip. The 7th grade studies marine biology during a three day trip to Key Largo. The entire school gleans on Martin Luther King Day at a nearby farm.

IVA. Students serve on our Sustainability Committee. A third grader petitioned the committee to bring the Middle School recycling initiative to the Lower School.

IVB. The Benjamin School works with the surrounding community on sustainable issues. The gleaning project and routine beach clean ups of Macarthur Park are examples.

IVC. A Sustainability Committee with parents, administration, faculty, green experts, and students meets monthly to evaluate ongoing sustainability issues.

VA: The administration has supported green initiatives: the Sustainability Committee, the installation of water fountains that allow thermoses to be filled, advocacy of the recycling program.

VB. Teachers attend green conferences during the year. Teachers have been trained and participate in recycling. The Sustainability Committee has scheduled presentations by green contractors to encourage more environmentally friendly air conditioning units

VC. The Sustainability Committee is being supported in its recycling and green water fountain initiatives. Green issues are part of division meetings.

VD. Our green achievements are chronicled in e-communications home, our hard copy publications, and in the school newspapers. Our Green School of Excellence standing is emblazoned on our website as is our new recycling initiative.

VIA. The Benjamin School is innovative. STEM has been redefined at Benjamin as "Sustainability, Tinkering, Engagement, and Making." Green Day this year will be a day of service to better our campus. Our Middle School newspaper is on line. We have

eliminated plastic bottles at lunch and students and teachers work together to recycle at lunch.

