

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Brandon M. Scott, Mayor
City of Baltimore

Ronald S. McFadden, Chair
Board of School Commissioners

Sonja Brookins Santelises
Chief Executive Officer

February 23, 2026

Ms. Rita Mullally, Principal
Ms. Nomiki Handakaros-Barr, Special Education Teacher & Green Leader
Ms. Madeleine Nettleton, 4th Grade Teacher & Green Leader
Graceland Park-O'Donnell Heights Elementary Middle School
6300 O'Donnell St.
Baltimore, MD 21217

Re: Systemic Partnership between Graceland Park-O'Donnell Heights EMS &
Baltimore City Public Schools

Dear Principal Mullally, Ms. Handakaros-Barr, and Ms. Nettleton:

This letter describes the work between Graceland Park-O'Donnell Heights Elementary/Middle School (Graceland) and Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) regarding environmental education and greening. It serves as documentation for *Section 1.4.2 Systemic Partnership* for your application for the MAEOE Green School program. Below are the ways we are collaborating!

- **Farm to School Programming:** the City Schools team at Great Kids Farm (GKF) has worked closely with Graceland on indoor and outdoor gardening. The Farm team has supported school staff to update the garden and outdoor learning space. Graceland staff also sign up regularly for Farm to School programs; in the first half of the current school year alone, they planned five separate student programs – including a Great Kids Farm field trip, a virtual Facetime the Farmer session, two classroom visits, and participation in a Great Kids Farm student summit focused on the intersection of climate and food systems.
- **Green Leader Stipend and Green Healthy Smart Challenge Programs:** Ms. Handakaros-Barr and Ms. Nettleton have for many years participated in the Green Leader Stipend program that supports school-based educators to lead extracurricular “green” activities. Additionally, they have applied for and secured multiple Green Healthy Smart Challenge funds from Baltimore City to support school-based sustainability projects.

We look forward to Graceland Park-O'Donnell Heights EMS being re-certified as a Maryland Green School! If you have any questions, please call me (667-434-3499) or email me (jpi-sunyer@bcps.k12.md.us).

Sincerely,



Joanna Pi-Sunyer
Sustainability Manager
Office of the Chief Operating Officer



Anne Rosenthal
Farm to School Specialist
Food and Nutrition Services