



Maryland Green Schools Program and Application Process

Key Points for Teachers and Staff at St. Peter's School

Presented by
Mrs. Kelly Nichols
Faculty Green Team Lead

Overview

- I hope you all have seen the **email sent out by Mrs. Giron**; please read at your earliest convenience and sign the signature sheet, located in XXXXX, acknowledging your awareness and support of the program.
- **In summary**, the Maryland Green Schools Program (MDGS) is a nationally recognized sustainable school program that is aligned with the goals of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and supports Maryland State Department of Education graduation requirements and standards.
- **Program goals**- Provide PreK to 12th-grade students with educational opportunities that empower them to:
 - Make changes to reduce environmental impact,
 - Practice environmental stewardship,
 - Encourage sustainability,
 - Increase awareness of how our relationship with the environment ultimately impacts public health and society and fosters environmental literacy.
- The first application includes **sustainable practices within the last 2 school years**; subsequent recertification applications occur every 4 years.

Application Details

- There are **3 main "Objectives"**, or Sections, to the application:
 - **Objective 1, Systemic Sustainability**: This section is all about the **non-student practices, teacher education, and curriculum enhancements** (school administration, teachers, faculty, parent community, etc). Your obligations in this section include:
 - **At least one example of an environmental science related hands-on lesson per grade level per application period** (though MAEOE strongly encourages one per *year*). All actions for these lessons must be documented and sent to Mrs. Giron. The pdf in her email lists the grade levels that have not yet completed this lesson: K, 1st, 4th, 5th, 8th.
 - At least **10% of classroom teachers need to show an example of environmental education professional development** within the last 2 years.
 - Optional: Additional examples of previously earned environmental education (PDH's, degrees, certifications, etc)
 - **Participation with your students in the annual school-wide celebration** (this typically occurs on Earth Day, but may vary from year to year)



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- **Objective 2, Student-Driven Sustainable Practices:** This section is all about **what the students have initiated, planned, built, maintained, lobbied for, etc.** Mrs. Giron, Mrs. Zadecky and Mr. Purdy have worked with different grade levels as well as the Environmental Club to accomplish some of these projects. We still have a few more to complete; Mrs. Giron will be in touch with some of you regarding how we can include your grade level in these remaining projects.
 - Project #1: Rain Garden (Planting this fall; 2nd, Middle School, EClub)
 - Project #2: Turn out the Lights Signs (Soon; EClub)
 - Project #3: Markers collection and Recycling (DONE! entire school w/ EClub)
 - Project #4: Classroom Recycling Bin Monitoring (Ongoing; EClub)
 - Project #5: Constructing Animal Habitats (1st Grade- Mrs. G will be in touch!!)
 - Project #6: Outdoor Learning Space (4th, 5th, EClub- Mrs. G will be in touch to finalize!)
 - Project #7: No Idle Zone (DONE! 3rd-7th)
 - Project #8: Walk & Roll to School Week (Upcoming in November; entire school)
 - Project #9: Making Green Cleaners for Classroom Use (In progress; 3rd Grade)
- **Objective 3, Community Partnerships and Special Awards:** This section requires the school to form community partnerships by being active in the community (our reusable bag drive), AND by inviting the community to be active in the school (upcoming ADW Office of Social Concerns presentation of Laudato Si'). This is also where we will include our Blue Ribbon awards, etc.

General Tidbits

- **Application is due March 1st, 2024**
- Please document anything you do in class that is environmentally related and send to Mrs. Giron. She will find a place for it in the application.
- Specific request for photos of students using the benches and/or wooden picnic tables for learning/studying- please email to Mrs. Giron. Another example- if you have a class schedule that shows "Learn Outside at the Picnic Tables" or similar, please take a photo and send to Mrs. G.
- As this is an ongoing initiative, and this is Mrs. Giron's last year at St. Peter's, she needs to **find her replacement** asap. If you have any suggestions for a parent you think might be a good fit, please let her know.
- Please contact Mrs. Giron with any questions. Margaret.giron@gmail.com, (240)476-2943
- Questions?