

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# GreenRibbonSchools



## Highlights from the 2013 Honorees



U.S. Department of Education - 400 Maryland Ave, SW - Washington, DC 20202  
[www.ed.gov/green-ribbon-schools](http://www.ed.gov/green-ribbon-schools) - [www.ed.gov/green-strides](http://www.ed.gov/green-strides)



Students participate in Discovery Camp programs in grades 4-7. Each grade spends up to five days at the Discovery Camp's outdoor facility, where they participate in programs focused on team building and outdoor education. Enrichment clusters offered that encourage physical well-being have included trailblazing, EnviRUNmental, hiking and survival skills, first aid, martial arts, organic gardening, and Frank-N-Foods. Afterschool fitness classes are offered to students, parents, and faculty. Classes have included yoga and Zumba. Perhaps the most popular event with both students and faculty is the school's Friday Dance. Every Friday, after each lunch wave, virtually everyone joins in for a 10-minute dance party at which students, parents, teachers, custodians, cafeteria workers and even school police officers all let go and dance!

## Delaware

### St. Andrew's School, Middletown, DE

*Rallying against climate change in the capital; protecting health at home*

St. Andrews uses sustainability and the environment as a context for learning STEM thinking skills and content knowledge. Thirty percent of the graduating class took AP Environmental Science and all students scored a three or higher on the exam. St. Andrews obtained a grant from the Greenwatch Institute which has allowed students at the school to work with the University of Delaware to determine water quality trends and best practices for monitoring water quality in the school's Noxontown Pond. Students actively participate in the reforestation of 100 acres that also protects the watershed for Noxontown Pond and work with students at Townsend Elementary to plant plums and trees at the headwaters of Noxontown Pond.

The school integrates environmental studies into nearly every subject, from chemistry to film to mathematics to the school's project-based physics curriculum. Students have made films designed to educate the community about recycling, have a unit on the environment in a senior ethics class, and learn about the historical origins of the American environmental movement. Chemistry courses study green technology, and students are offered environmental science as a lab course. The school's sports offerings include organic gardening and forestry.

St. Andrews School's orientation includes a class in which students are acquainted with the importance of recycling and energy conservation. Students participate in sustainability trips abroad during breaks and outdoor education in both 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Students and faculty of St. Andrews School received the 2012 Governor's Agriculture and Urban Conservation Award. St. Andrews chartered buses and canceled classes to allow students to attend a major climate rally in Washington,



D.C. on Feb. 17, 2013, and participates in the *Green Schools Alliance Green Cup Challenge*. In recognition of Arbor Day, last year's seniors planted 600 native plants and trees on school property.

The school was *LEED* Gold certified for their new Sippelle Field House, and had the honor of receiving the first *LEED* for Schools Certification in the state of Delaware. The school reduced its utility bill by 36 percent, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 19 percent over 8 years. The school has defaults on all computers to print double-sided, uses 100 percent Green Seal certified products, and biodiesel. The school purchases 13 percent local food and participates in composting. The grounds include bioswales and a rain garden to reduce stormwater run-off, protecting local waters and human health. Stormwater runoff was reduced by 94 percent due to the school's unique infiltration bed design.

According to the EPA, the school demonstrates *IPM* best practices on its 2,200 acres of land. The school farms hay which maintains topsoil; irrigates to reduce fertilizer and pesticides; and practices no till. It works to reduce student exposure to pesticides through the following actions: it uses the least toxic pesticides possible when they are necessary; it uses the minimum amount of pesticides often within a given range of recommended application. It uses pesticides only when students are not in the field. It uses a weather station which accurately predicts the direction and intensity of wind during the day which will prevent applications with drift. It employs two school staff who hold certified pesticide licenses and are certified in Delaware nutrient management. The employees are current on certification and education and the school implements principles of *IPM* inside and outside of the building.

## ***District of Columbia***

### **Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School, Washington, DC**

*Rockin' Rock Creek Park from the earliest years*

First opened in August 2011, Mundo Verde is Washington, D.C.'s first public charter school that is explicitly dedicated to being a green school. It is no coincidence that "mundo verde" is Spanish for "green world." Mundo Verde's Habits of Mind -- the behaviors, virtues, and characteristics that all members of the school community strive to practice and embody each day -- explicitly include environmental stewardship. Students learn stewardship skills, knowledge, and values as they take part in the greening of school operations.

