Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

St. Mary's Elementary School

111 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
410 263-2869
www.stmaryschurch.org
Catholic Elementary and Middle School
(Kindergarten - Grade 8)
Member since January 2010

Management and Leadership

☑ **Environmental Team**

Our mission is to provide environmental education for students, faculty and staff. In doing so, we want to create an environmentally sound city school and involve everyone in being stewards of God's gift the Earth. To fulfill our mission, we have a standing Green School Committee at St. Mary's Elementary School comprised of volunteer faculty and staff. While the number of members changes each year, our current committee is comprised of long standing members as well as new members. The leadership structure is a committee chairman, two assistant chairmen and subcommittees that organize particular projects. The leadership meets at least once a month while the subcommittees meet when necessary to accomplish their goals.

Following the example of our Green School Committee at the Elementary School, our parish has established the Environmental Stewardship Committee. Our High School also has an Environmental Club.

☑ **Annual Environmental Goals**

Each year, our School Committee establishes a set of goals based on a school- wide assessment of our campus that identifies areas that we could make more environmentally sound. Our goals include lowering the runoff and creating better storm water management (rain barrels) and wetland construction. We also instituted recycling programs (paper, plastic, aluminum, glass, electronics, crayons, and Capri Sun bags). In addition, we are now using reusable plates in the cafeteria instead of Styrofoam. We plan to plant a garden of native

Maryland plants to help with runoff, provide an educational place for students, and increase faculty environmental education.

☑ **Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

In order to absorb runoff from the roof of school buildings, we created a wetland. This area was originally a grass plot with no real habitat for animals. With the planting of Maryland native plants, we have created a site for squirrels, birds, insects, lizards, and many other animals. This is also used as an educational area for students.

We also planted a butterfly garden (including a butterfly house) that attracts many butterflies. Classes that hatch butterflies in their rooms use this garden for a release area.

In 2010, a 150 gallon tank was installed in the lobby of our school. The tank is being developed as a Chesapeake Bay environment. Our school has a license to have undersized specimens from the Bay and its tributaries for the students to study The Bay Tank project was a collaborative effort with several community partners. The plan is to use the Chesapeake Bay tank as a learning environment with constant additions for the students to learn about.

Waste

☑ **Solid Waste/Material Use Reduction and Reuse**

Our school is reducing the use of paper through a commitment to online communication with our parents and the increased use of our website. Originally instituted in 2007, this plan eliminates the need for paper forms, newsletters, and flyers and has continued to grow making a measurable difference in the use of paper at our school. Not only has it reduced the use and cost of paper, but we also are saving on printing and mailing. Below is the average saving on the amount of paper use since this plan began:

2009 - 2010 – 233 reams (500 sheets) of paper saved = 116,500 sheets
2008 - 2009 – 220 reams (500 sheets) of paper saved = 110,000 sheets
2007 - 2008 – 220 reams (500 sheets) of paper saved = 110,000 sheets

In just one year, this reduction in paper use saves two tons of wood, 17 million BTUs of energy, 3,426 lbs of CO_2 equivalent, 12,942 gallons of water, and 1,112 pounds of solid waste.

☑ **Recycling**

We are currently recycling – paper, plastic, aluminum, glass, cardboard and several technology items. This year, we will be adding juice bags and crayons to the list of items we recycle. Since the recycling is campus wide (Elementary School, High School, Church and Advancement Office) we do not have actual numbers of quantities or cost savings.

Water

☑ **Stormwater Management and Site Design**

We have installed 10 rain barrels to collect the runoff from several buildings which prevent water from going on the parking lot and into the storm drain. Each of these barrels holds 55 gallons of water that would go on the blacktop and then right into the storm drain. This is a significant amount of pollution not entering Spa Creek and then the Chesapeake Bay. This collected water is used to water areas around the school. We also created a wetland area to absorb runoff from an entire building roof and half of another building. This wetland also provides a habitat for animals around the campus and is used as an educational area for students. Another parking lot has been retrofitted to allow storm water runoff to drain in the rain gardens around the parking lot.

Other

☑ *St. Mary's Elementary School is a Maryland Green School as designated by the Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education. In 2011, we received our recertification for another four years.*

St. Mary's is also part of the Terrapin Connection Program, sponsored by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center.

Profile Updated April 2011