*TO: Marriotts Ridge High School Community*

*FROM: Green School Application Team*

*DATE: Back to School Night*

*RE: Our plan and how you can get involved*

Welcome to another school year at Marriotts Ridge High School!

This year is especially exciting because Marriotts Ridge will be applying to become a Green School in February 2012. What is a Green School? The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education states:

While there are many "Green School" programs in the country, most are focused on energy conservation alone. The [Maryland Green School Awards Program](http://www.maeoe.org/greenschools/links.php) is a holistic, integrated approach to authentic learning that incorporates local environmental issue investigation and professional development with environmental best management practices and community stewardship.

Here are examples of some of the things we have done and will continue to do as requirements for the application:

* Reduce waste through an increase in recycling
* Encourage environmentally responsible actions such as carpooling, taking the bus, marking drains with destination of water, building and installing birdhouses
* Reduce school’s carbon footprint by planting flowers, educating staff and students about turning off lights, and reminding all that paper towels come from trees, use less throw away materials

The Green School Application is a team effort between students, staff and the community. We welcome your help in completion of the requirements.

What can you do?

* Model environmentally responsible behavior at home (i.e. recycling)
* Encourage your child to carpool or take the bus
* Donate environmentally related prizes and/or money to help with incentive programs
* Volunteer your time
* Share your knowledge of the community: Do you know anyone in the community who would be interested in helping us?

We look forward to sharing with you the results of our successful completion of the Green School Application. Thank you for your continued support of Marriotts Ridge High School.

-Green School Team

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