JANUARY 4th, 2013

Thank you to the 17 people who have replied to our survey.

Please take a few minutes to fill the survey out for us as it will help us with our Green School Application.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G7H2W9G

**Here are a few highlights:**

**100%** know we are trying to become a Green School!

**100%** know about recycling!

The area that people most want to know about is how to ***reduce energy consumption***.

[Glad to hear that as we are one of the biggest offenders of all Howard County schools!  This is great as we will have a presentation at our January 7th meeting about what you can do!  What we can do at school can also be applied at home!]

Many people talked about gardening at home.  Wonderful!

 If you have ideas of how to incorporate your environmental passions at home with your students, please share on CLC.

**Here are some answers to questions people had about our Green School Application:**

*What are the criteria on which the school is being judged?*

Please visit <http://www.maeoe.org/greenschools/>

*What do I have to do to help with this if at all?*

The Green School Application is based on school wide involvement.  One of the reasons we were not accepted last year is that we did not demonstrate this well enough.  If you include environmental education in your curriculum in any way, share it with us please!

*Are we making headway with the tedious process?*

Yes, we have a strong base to our application based on last year’s submission, however, we are improving various areas.

*What do you need for us to do to help things along?  What else needs to be done?*

\* Model sustainable actions for the environment for our students.  Examples include following through on our Green Pledges.

\*Share any environmental education you do in the class with us.

\*Share about any conferences, fairs, events you go to that are environmentally related as they could count as PD (we need 10% of the staff to have formal PD).

Join the Green School Team on January 29th as we work on...

\* our application website http://mrhsgg.weebly.com/

*Do you have a website for sample lesson plans in different content areas for high school level?*

National Green Week is coming up…  http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org/greenweek.html

If we participate we can get lessons on sustainability focused programs.  Let us know if there is any topic on the website you are particularly interested in getting lessons for.

*Where do we need to improve?*

·         Energy consumption

·         Student and staff involvement

*What can we do about styrofoam when we get it packaging?*

Some shipping stores will take them

Styrofoam™ #6 can be recycled at Alpha Ridge Landfill (2350 Marriottsville Road).

**Please do not put foam in curbside recycling.**

FEBRUARY 14th, 2013

Thanks to the 32 people who replied to the Green School Survey.

You can still fill it out at

 http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G7H2W9G

**Here are a few highlights:**

**100%** know we are trying to become a Green School!

**100%** know about recycling!

People are using carpooling spots!

**Here are some great responses to what we already do:**

\*\*Hiking, reusing old technology for new purposes, fixing things as opposed to throwing them out and buying new.

\*\* Biking, recycling in my neighborhood, picking up trash when I see it on the street and taking my old electronics to Best Buy for them to recycle. It's free.

\*\* Cycling and walking instead of driving

\*\* Buying organic and free range food.

We are most interested in reducing energy consumption and reusing household materials. This is great!

***Reduce Energy Consumtion:*** I hope that you found Diane Sweeney's PPT enlightening. Remember, the last few slides have great information on what you can do at home. If any math classes would like to do a project on energy use in the school, this would be awesome for our application as well as educating staff and students on our energy use!

***Reusing Household Materials:*** It's not just art that can reuse household materials in class. Encourage students to use them for any and all projects. I hear pinterest is good for getting ideas for what to do with old househould items but you can also check out the following websites for some great ideas. Google reusing household items for more ideas!

* http://www.mytwodollars.com/2008/08/12/25-frugal-ways-to-reuse-everyday-household-items/
* http://www.wisebread.com/10-ways-to-reuse-common-household-items
* http://www.squidoo.com/reuse-everything

**Here are some answers to more questions people had about our Green School Application:**

*What else needs to be done?*

* Our Green School Application is due April 1st, 2013. Our application is in the form of a website. http://mrhsgg.weebly.com/

*If we don't get certification this year, do we re-apply next year?*

Yes, we will keep applying until we are accepted. However, one key to being certified is the participation of as many staff and students as possible. We have improved on last year but we still need more staff to step up in doing Environmental Education and Professional Development. We also need you all to send us lessons/sample work/write up to include on our application. If we are doing the work, we want it recognized!

*When do we find out if we received certification?*

It takes about a month for the reviewers to get back to us.

*How long does the certification last?*

We must renew every 4 years.