



LANGDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY SNAPSHOT



District of Columbia
Office of the State
Superintendent of Education

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- Implementation of District of Columbia Public Schools' Science Cornerstones.
- Kindergarten project-based learning experience that explored the effects of the sun on the Earth's surface.
- Cafeteria organics recycling program with the Green Team.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Langdon Elementary School serves students in pre-K through grade 5 in a learning environment that promotes the acquisition of valuable knowledge and skills and serves as a foundation for each student to progress successfully through all educational levels. Langdon Elementary's curriculum consists of a traditional course of study with a focus on science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM), which makes education and careers in the sciences more accessible for students. Langdon Elementary School also offers an Association Montessori International (AMI)-certified early childhood Montessori curriculum, a Tools of the Mind early childhood curriculum, and an early childhood autism program. Special subjects, such as art, music, library media services, health and physical education, and Spanish enrich Langdon students fully to be well-rounded citizens in our emerging global economy. Langdon Elementary fosters an ongoing exchange of ideas and resources for students, parents and educators to achieve our goals.



"The environmental literacy program has allowed Langdon students to see the impact humans have on the planet. Specifically, Langdon's cafeteria organics recycling program truly captured the amount of waste students were accumulating and gave students opportunities to problem solve for more efficient strategies. I knew we were on to something when a student said, 'Ms. O! We should be keeping track of how much milk we waste and how much money that is costing the school district.'"

— Lola Odukoya, instructional coach, Langdon Elementary



ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PROGRAM

The 2015-16 school year Environmental Literacy Program focused on two main goals: to increase science instruction for all students and connect students with how they impact the planet on which they live through the recycling of paper and cafeteria food (organics). Teachers created Next Generation Science Standards-aligned lessons and project-based learning experiences to engage students in rigorous and meaningful instruction. The STEAM coordinator facilitated the creation of the Green Team, a group of selected students whose purpose was to manage the recycling program and educate students on the importance of taking care of our planet. In addition to DCPS Science Cornerstones, all grades go on nature walks and participate in recycling and energy reduction activities. Students in grades 2-5 conduct exploration and observation lessons in the RiverSmart Schools outdoor classroom. Grade 5 students also attend the overnight meaningful watershed educational experience at Camp Fraser.



NEXT STEPS

Identify lead and direction of program due to staff changes. Current ideas include creating an edible garden, working with a food organization for a farm-to-table experience for the students, planting trees, creating a worm bin, and increasing the number of field experiences.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Identify an implementation team that will be able to stay with the program throughout the entire year.
- Include parents whenever possible to eliminate stress.
- Share results and success stories with the student body.
- Let students lead the goal-setting and implementation process.