



2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- Established five sustainability enduring understandings for graduating students.
- Grade 3 American shad restoration project and Anacostia River field trip.
- Partnered with REAL School Gardens to learn how to observe and train teachers to use the outdoors as a classroom and teaching tool.
- Conducted a school-wide compost competition.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The mission of Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School is to foster high levels of academic achievement among a diverse group of students by preparing them to be successful and compassionate global stewards of their communities. At Mundo Verde, we seek to create a diverse, nurturing environment that fosters social and emotional development as well as academic excellence. Mundo Verde embraces an educational model known as Expeditionary Learning that has proved successful in one of Washington, DC's most sought-after public charter schools. Our curriculum is designed around "expeditions" – interactive, hands-on, long-term projects that spark curiosity, promote active learning, encourage teamwork, build character, and capitalize on children's innate spirit of adventure. By undertaking comprehensive studies of real-world issues in their expeditions, students learn to become stewards of their human and natural communities. We are the only school in the District to also focus on environmental sustainability and bilingual education.



"The shad project was a lot of fun; the students were so incredibly engaged! We will definitely do it again next year, but will incorporate it even further into our water expedition curriculum."

– David Levin, grade 3 teacher, Mundo Verde Bilingual PCS

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School is the District's first public charter to be recognized as a US Green Ribbon School. The school is dedicated to educating young people to become global stewards in an increasingly complex world. At Mundo Verde, environmental sustainability is integrated into all aspects of the school's curriculum and operations. Mundo Verde students learn that natural, social, and economic systems are linked and interdependent. Students learn concepts, values, and behaviors that will last a lifetime. For example, by learning about plants, animals, and habitats, they build a foundation for understanding ecological systems. By learning about family and relationships, they begin to understand intergenerational responsibility. Mundo Verde encourages children's natural sense of adventure through outdoor exploration, physical activity, healthy food, and engagement with the local community. To ensure curriculum alignment with sustainability, Mundo Verde uses Shelburne Farms' "Big Ideas of Sustainability and Essential Questions" to guide the direction of expeditions. Curriculum connections also have been mapped with the DC Environmental Literacy Framework. New this year has been the creation of the following five sustainability enduring understandings that students will have upon graduating from the school:

- A positive connection with nature;
- An understanding that nature functions in cycles that maintain equilibrium;
- The perspective that all systems (natural and human) are interconnected across places and time;
- Appreciation for diversity and equity; and
- The mindset and skills needed to make a positive difference in their community, now and in the future.



NEXT STEPS

The school's environmental literacy plan will be used to work with teachers on revising their expeditions to better align with Mundo Verde's eco-literacy and sustainability learning standards and experiences. During summer professional development sessions, teachers will be introduced to the sustainability curriculum, vertical alignment and five sustainability enduring understandings upon graduation. Teachers also will receive training on how to use the outdoor spaces around the school as a teaching tool. Throughout the 2016-17 school year, the school's sustainability coordinator will assist teachers with revising their expedition plans to align with Mundo Verde's sustainability learning goals, and also consult, schedule, observe, and provide feedback to all teachers conducting outdoor lessons that use the schoolyard ecology as a teaching tool. Every teacher will be asked to lead and be observed teaching at least three outdoor lessons in the course of the 2016-17 school year.

LESSONS LEARNED

- It is more effective to have two school representatives than one. Schools that had two representatives reported feeling more confident in their ability to implement change at their school.
- Schedule weekly meetings with the Environmental Literacy Fellow. Have clear goals and products set for each meeting.
- Show teachers the connection between the new environmental literacy projects, fieldwork and standards and the work they are already doing in the classroom. Then encourage them to take it one step further by adding an experience in nature, or taking on a project that improves their community.