



**C.W. HARRIS**  
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
 WORK HARD. ACHIEVE. INSPIRE



District of Columbia  
 Office of the State  
 Superintendent of Education

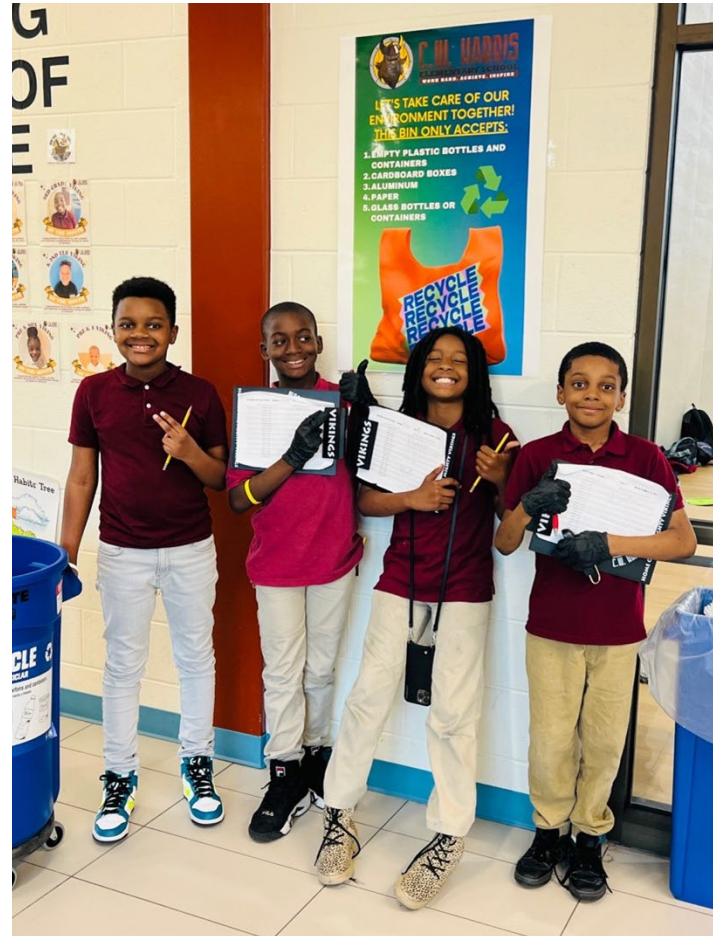
## ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY SNAPSHOT

### 2022-23 HIGHLIGHTS

- Fourth grade environmental literacy ambassadors took initiative to engage the entire Harris community in a school-wide recycling challenge and managed the whole process.
- Students in the grades 3-5 self-contained special education classes completed an energy audit for the school building and shared the results with community partners.
- New amenities were added to the school’s outdoor learning spaces.
- More environmental science is being taught in grades K-5 on a consistent basis.

### ABOUT THE SCHOOL

C.W. Harris Elementary School is a community school located in the District of Columbia’s Ward 7 and serves students and families from pre-K 3 through grade 5. C.W. Harris is part of the DC Public Schools’ Rigorous Instruction Supports Equity (RISE) initiative, and the school focuses on improving and advancing the lives of students through social emotional learning, academic acceleration, and acts of service. The mission of C.W. Harris is to collaborate with families and community partners to provide an academic experience that is rooted in developing the whole child. Through student centered learning, the school will inspire creativity, cultivate growth, and develop the diverse strengths and talents of the community.



“Environmental literacy programming challenges our school community to be more intentional about waste and human impact on the environment. Although the Harris community has a long way to go in improving its practices in caring for our planet, it is inspiring how so many young Vikings commit to working hard and inspire us all to be better stewards of our school and individual homes.”

– Tacora Snell, Instructional Coach, C.W. Harris Elementary

## ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PROGRAM

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C.W. Harris Elementary students focus on environmental education in a multitude of ways, starting in the classroom through science instruction that focuses heavily on engaging students in project-based learning and real-world application of environmental concepts. Students from pre-K through grade 5 participate in FRESHFARM's FoodPrints program, a variety of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programming, and outdoor learning that enhances individual environmental literacy. This year, the school focused on building the capacity and commitment for recycling as well as encouraging more environmentally conscious practices in the classrooms and throughout the building. As students matriculate throughout their time at Harris, they are afforded opportunities to explore and enhance their environmental literacy in the school's outdoor spaces, participate in programming provided by various community partners, and continue to grow the impact of environmental stewardship.

## NEXT STEPS

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In the upcoming school year, a top priority will be to inspire and engage students and families through environmentally focused project-based learning. Students will be incentivized to apply their knowledge and skills in other areas of their lives. With their families, students will have opportunities to earn awards and monetary rewards by competing in challenges that increase environmental literacy and raise consciousness about everyday human activities.

The school will continue to advance environmental literacy in the classroom by incorporating the study and analysis of careers that focus on improving human activities. Lessons will be enhanced with experiential learning related to recycling, reducing, reusing, plus gardening and planting.



## LESSONS LEARNED

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- Small steps make a big difference.
- It is essential to get your entire team on the same page and tap into the strengths of your community.
- Get input from as many community members as possible and appreciate feedback.

