



TUBMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

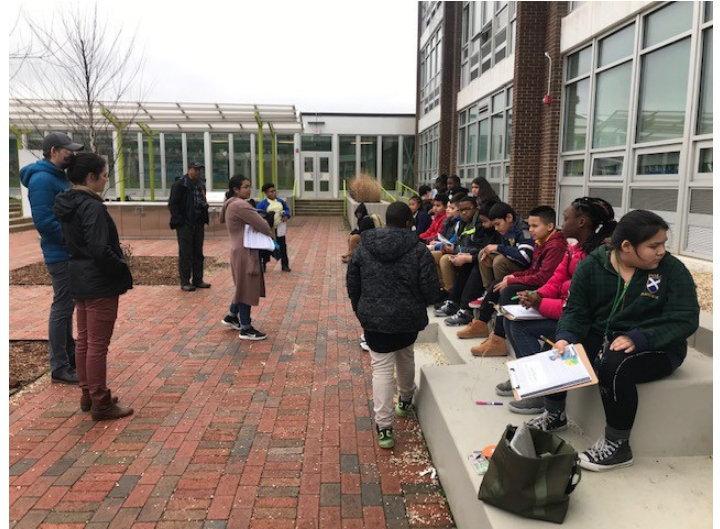


District of Columbia
Office of the State
Superintendent of Education

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY SNAPSHOT

2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

- During daily science lessons, students observed the differences and similarities of traditional agriculture and hydroponics. Students learned how hydroponic systems use less water and can be used to grow vegetables throughout the entire year.
- Students at Tubman Elementary started a campaign to teach others how to properly sort trash and have a positive impact on the environment.
- Grade 5 students analyzed and measured the air quality of the school's indoor and outdoor spaces. With the support of Clean Air Partners and Casey Trees, they decided where to plant trees on our campus.
- In partnership with Audubon Naturalist Society, pre-K students learned about worm composting and grade 2 students participated in lessons about "Garbology," which included making paper.



ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Tubman Elementary offers a comprehensive academic program serving the needs of all learners. All students take science in Spanish daily as well as have specials daily including wellness class, library, art, music and physical education. Tubman has its own Farmer's Market and is a Community School partnering with Mary's Center. The school offers a comprehensive family engagement program as well as after school programming, including karate, yoga, soccer, and theater. Before and after care are provided through Champions. Tubman has adopted the Creative Curriculum for the school's youngest learners, which allows them to learn organically through thematic play. Together with community partners and families, the school is putting students on a path to college and empowering them to question, challenge, and change the world.



By developing an environmental literacy program that is aligned to the science curriculum, we have been able to improve and expand our lessons. All the expert visits and field trips really made a lifelong impact on our students. They were able to connect the content with real-life applications".

- The Science Team, Tubman Elementary

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY PROGRAM

The goal of the Tubman Elementary Environmental Literacy Program is to provide students with a variety of outdoor and indoor experiences to learn and understand different environmental topics. The school partners with several organizations including Casey Trees, Clean Air Partners, the Anacostia Watershed Society, and the Audubon Naturalist Society. Tubman has started to develop a school-wide recycling program where all community members will be involved. The goal is to make sure recycling is done properly in all spaces of our building. After this first stage, the school will introduce goals about reducing trash output and how more materials can be reused before they are discarded. The outdoor garden will be used to show students how they can use trash items to build a greenhouse to grow more vegetables year-round. Tubman also continues using our hydroponic system to show students how food can be grown with less water.

NEXT STEPS

Tubman Elementary is committed to ensuring environmental literacy is included in all grade levels. In order to achieve this goal, the school will continue to reach out to partner organizations for guidance and support with virtual, indoor, and outdoor activities. The school will also make sure all staff and parents have access to in-person or virtual recycling workshops. Furthermore, Tubman will continue to maximize the use of the outdoor garden to make real life connections for all environmental literacy lessons. Additionally, the school will continue to develop leadership skills in students by showing them how they can become advocates of the environment.



LESSONS LEARNED

- Identify teachers, staff, and administrators who are passionate about environmental literacy to support your goals.
- Show students real-life connections or examples to make learning more meaningful.
- Develop student leaders to help sustain your goals and develop ownership of environmental issues.
- Field trips are an essential part of this program. They help keep students engaged and they can see firsthand our impact on the environment.

