

MAY 2019

*A newsletter published by
the School Energy and
Recycling Team*

SERT Spotlight

Northwest High and John Poole Middle Schools are Leading by Example



Students make sure that NWHS' garden planters are kept in the optimum condition. They're currently growing peppers, tomatoes, garlic, strawberries, raspberries, and a variety of herbs.

THE LEAD BY EXAMPLE CAMPAIGN, sponsored by the School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) program, challenges middle and high school students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to create resource conservation plans that include energy conservation and responsible recycling projects, or initiatives toward a sustainable future. This campaign is important because it raises awareness and reinforces a culture of conservation and sustainability while giving students the opportunity to grow and strengthen their leadership skills. Over the years, successful initiatives have included energy audits with recommended conservation practices such as staff using task lamps, computer shutdowns, various contests, videos and social media awareness strategies, and more. All of these actions promote conservation behaviors among students, staff, and the community while encouraging responsible environmental stewardship habits.

Several of our secondary schools submitted interesting entries this year with some excellent ideas for conservation. They demonstrate that our students and staff have adopted a spirit of environmental responsibility and that daily conservation practices are becoming second-nature. The purpose of the Lead by Example campaign is threefold:

1. To increase awareness about the importance of environmental conservation in our schools;
2. To give students the opportunity to develop and enhance their leadership abilities; and
3. To have schools create a useful model for conservation that other schools might follow.

The two schools that did an excellent job in all three of these areas, Northwest High School (NWHS) and John Poole Middle School (JPMS), have won first place for their conservation efforts, which are highlighted on page 2.



NWHS students made sure that the proper bins are being used throughout the school.



Small groups of JPMS students worked together to create videos promoting the importance of conservation activities.



NWHS students are creating an outside garden to house a wider variety of plants.



JPMS students spent nearly 100 hours weeding/mulching their outdoor classroom.



Students at JPMS are on a mission to reduce disposable water bottle use.



NWHS students make and distribute non-toxic cleaning scrubs and sprays.



Students take advantage of NWHS events to spread the word about the Green Team's initiatives like the Free Store, where used school supplies are donated and redistributed.

MCPS Students and Staff: It's Time to Vote!

OUR MCPS STUDENTS AND STAFF have submitted more than 150 creative, interesting, and informative entries for the 2019 *Watts Up?* poster contest, sponsored by SERT program. Our SERT staff members have completed the initial round of judging, considering the following criteria:

- Does the artwork demonstrate/promote recycling and/or saving energy?
- Does the artwork relay a good message about the importance of conservation?
- Will we be able to reproduce the artwork without losing its beauty and/or its message?

For the final round of judging, we're inviting all MCPS staff and students to help us pick the winning entries. Visit <http://bit.ly/2Ztxc6Y> to judge via our online form. Please note that this activity is limited to MCPS students and staff. You must use your @MCPS.net (Google) login in order to participate.

The *Watts Up?* poll is open now, and will remain open until 5:00 p.m. on

Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Don't delay—cast your vote today!

You'll definitely want to check out the Google Slides document

(<http://bit.ly/2Un3hK6>) to see the entries in full-screen format.

Contest winners will be announced in the June issue of *Spotlight*, on our [website](#), and in *the Bulletin*. Posters winning first and second place will be on display at the [Rockville Public Library](#) during the month of June.

Because we are so appreciative to our schools for supporting this annual contest, certificates of participation will be delivered to schools for each entry along with awards for the winning schools.

During the summer, a few of the winning entries will be used to create posters that will be added to our library of conservation posters. At the beginning of the school year, we'll ship a supply to each school so that you'll have a beautiful supply of new posters to adorn your walls, reminding your students, staff, and visitors about the importance of energy conservation and recycling.

Visit our website for more details about the [Watts Up? poster contest](#).

Watts Up?

THE SERT PROGRAM SENDS A BIG "THANK YOU" TO ALL OF THE MCPS STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS YEAR'S CONTEST.

YOU'VE DONE AN EXCEPTIONAL JOB DEMONSTRATING THE IMPORTANCE OF ENERGY CONSERVATION AND RECYCLING!



FULL STEAM AHEAD



2019 MARYLAND GREEN SCHOOLS YOUTH SUMMIT

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) will hold its 10th annual Youth Summit from 9 a.m.– 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 30. The summit will be held, as usual, at the beautiful Sandy Point State Park. Approximately 3,000 students from 100 schools are expected to attend the summit where schools will be recognized for earning Maryland Green School certification. Several different organizations will participate in an environmental literacy fair, with hands-on activities, and a green careers fair. Special guests from the governor’s office, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of the Environment, and the Maryland State Department of Education will be attending. Visit www.MAEOE.org for more information or to register; or email greenschools@maeoe.org.

Please remember that your recycling dumpsters must remain locked at all times. We understand that an unlocked dumpster is much easier for building service personnel to access but it’s much easier for your community members to use also. Help keep contamination out by keeping the dumpster’s lock engaged!



Have a wonderful long Memorial Day weekend.

Please remember to perform an energy shutdown and submit the [checklist](#).

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

A TIME TO HONOR THE FALLEN



SERT Spotlight

This newsletter is produced by the School Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) program and distributed to school-based SERT leaders and teams, building service personnel, and others who are interested in conservation and sustainability.

As part of the [Montgomery County Public Schools](#) Department of Facilities Management, the SERT program provides opportunities for all schools to participate and receive incentives and recognition for their energy conservation and recycling efforts.

The SERT program supports a balanced environment for the integration of all students to work together in a culturally diverse environment. Our goal is to provide the resources, support, and vision of the future for a successful conservation program at each school. Promoting the connections between human behavior and its impact on the environment reinforces our culture of conservation and increases participation in our mission to conserve resources and recycle actively.



SERT PROGRAM

Montgomery County Public Schools
Department of Facilities Management
45 W. Gude Drive, Suite 4000
Rockville, MD 20850
www.GreenSchoolsFocus.org
Main: 240.314.1090
Fax: 301.279.3005
SERT@mcpsmd.org
@MCPSSert

MAY 2019