



Bear Creek Community Charter School

Green Flag Program

for Environmental Leadership

Bear Creek Community Charter School recently joined the Green Flag Program for Environmental Leadership in Schools. The program's purpose is to educate students from grades K-12 on environmental issues that commonly effect schools. With each positive step that a school takes, the program gives awards to the school and students, culminating in the presentation of the Green Flag Award for Environmental Leadership in a specific program area.

The program allows students—working with parents, teachers and school administrators— the opportunity to learn about their school environment by reviewing a school's programs in areas such as: indoor air quality, recycling, use of non-toxic products and pest management without use of toxic chemicals.

The Green Flag Program seeks to recognize schools that have successful environmental education programs and environmental policies, and encourage other schools to follow their example through participation in the program. The program provides students with opportunities to conduct investigation through hands on exploration of issues affecting their school and community. It also teaches students how to employ methodical research skills to develop and make oral and written presentations, which achieve a tangible goal with obvious benefits.

The program teaches cooperative learning by encouraging a team approach to problem solving. Students are required to form a group, make presentations to peers and work with adults through an interdisciplinary educational process that involves teachers, community members, school facility and administrative staff.

Bear Creek Community Charter School recently established a Green Flag Schools Team, held an informational meeting and conducted a Green Flag School Environmental Survey. The next step will be for the Green Flag Schools Team to take a closer look at the issue of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, and how it affects the school environment. This part of the Green Flag Schools program will help our school improve its waste reduction and recycling programs, give us ideas on how to purchase recycled content products, and reuse materials to save costs. Students will complete the RRR Survey, research school policies and programs, and perform a waste audit. Students will complete classroom activities and will share what they learn by making presentations to their peers and other stakeholder groups.

The final phase of this component of the Green Flag Schools program will be to design a School Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Plan, present the plan to school administrators and the Board of Trustees, and will implement the plan to improve the school's reduce, reuse and recycle practices.

For more information, contact Bear Creek Community Charter School's Green Flag School program coordinator at (570) 820-4070, extension 328 or via e-mail at paula.longo@bearcreekschool.com