

2021-22 NOMINEES



May 11, 2022

LONG KEY NATURE CENTER, DAVIE

Information provided by nominees

STUDENT NOMINEES

Khloe Bailey – Driftwood Middle School

Khloe Bailey is the Green Team Co-President at Driftwood Middle School, she is tireless in her goal to improve herself, the environment, and empower others to do the same. Khloe shows up early and stays after school every day because of all the different clubs she is involved in, and she is born leader. She is often the first student to school to create environmental announcements and last to leave after Green Team meetings. Khloe was instrumental in the Rising Seas Initiative on campus and Earth Week activities. She spends many Saturdays' volunteering for different environmental events such as Save the Food Festival, Earth Week campus Clean up and DMS Beach Clean-up that she organized with the Green Team. Khloe does not stop until she has accomplished what she is pursuing, and even then, she wants more. In every club she is in, she is now the president of Green Team and Student Council, she is the treasurer of the NJHS, member of FFEA and treasurer of debate team. She is the president of NJHS, Green Team, and FFEA. Khloe motivates not only other students, but also teachers, administrators, and even a few thousand people tuning into NBC for Sea Level Rises interview. She is responsible for Driftwood Middle's first Environmental Pledge for the school. Khloe attended in both Youth Climate Summits (virtual and in person) and created the DMS Beach Clean-up for her summit action plan. She has many character traits such as being honest, respectful, responsible, open minded and the one that stands out the most is she is very humble. Khloe is successful at everything she does, and she always blows it off and acknowledges others. Her greatest trait above everything else is that she is a problem solver and action taker. If she sees a problem, she is the first to work on finding a solution. She is driven by the passion that she has for the environment. Her goal all through her life was just to make a difference. She saw the problem of what is happening to the environment and has made it her mission to try and raise awareness for it, and through this she has inspired others to join her mission.



Khushi Desai – Deerfield Beach High School

Khushi Desai is an 11th grader who has been passionate about correcting environmental issues from a young age. She was a leader of the Environmental Club in middle school where she implemented school-wide initiatives that included increased recycling efforts, reduced water consumption, and garden usage. As a leader of her high school's Environmental Club and other organizations she continues to promote environmental awareness. She has been a member of Broward Youth Climate Summit since its inception where she was mentor and guest speaker. She interviewed other guest speakers to share various perspectives on environmental issues to motivate our youth. She uses her voice and countless volunteer hours to share environmental concerns with the public, one being a community youth round table hosted by her local mayor. Khushi's science research in middle and high school has been based on water purification and eco-friendly measures. Some of



Khushi's accolades include ranking first place at the Broward Regional Engineering and Science Fair, representing Broward County at the State Science and Engineering Fair three times, and she has twice been a Broadcom Masters Top 300 nationwide participant. Recently, Khushi was recognized as a 2022 Florida Sunshine State Scholar for her outstanding achievement in STEM. These are just a few of Khushi's accomplishments. We all will benefit from Khushi's promising future and dedication to improving our environment.

Jaliyah Dixon – Challenger Elementary School

Jaliyah Dixon is a remarkable 5th grader at Challenger Elementary School. This student enjoys working hard and setting goals to achieve what she wants. Being a 5th grader keeps her busy in school and out of school. She maintains excellent grades in all her academics, participates in multiple clubs and afterschool activities, while completing responsibilities as a big sister, and still having fun. As Jaliyah determines what her next steps and goals will be as the year begins to wind down, she is quick to come up with ideas as a leader, team player, and fellow 5th grade student. Her ideas to incorporate STEM into different aspects of her life, from keeping the environment clean and healthy to finding solutions to everyday problems, this young lady has the qualities of a leader for the future.



Robert Donahue – Central Park Elementary School

While not formally a member of any environmental organizations at the moment, Robert is a model ambassador for spreading environmental awareness with others during public beach cleanup initiatives or school-based events including #RisingWaters2021 or Everglades Literacy. Robert is always first to raise his hand to assist in environmentally friendly initiatives at our school including tending to the



school garden, monitoring air quality sensors as well as retrieving and monitoring the data, to name a few. He is an avid reader who loves to explore a variety of topics including conservation and sustainability. Robert shows constant interest and initiative in researching environmental issues which he shares readily with his classmates. He actively participates in the Scientist in Every Florida School meets ups with experts in various fields where he asks questions about the discussed topics including turtle conservation, microplastics, human impact on marine life, pollinators, sustainable ways of life, and more! Robert, as the only student in his class, volunteered his time along with his family's, to participate in every single one public event this school year alone, including: two beach clean ups with the Saving Ocean Life organization, as well as sea oats planting, and invasive plant removal meet up with the Youth Environmental Alliance.

Having earned experience in the area of beach clean-ups, he served as a student mentor to others who attended the events for the first time. Robert has been a vocal advocate of using the resources readily available to us and repurposing them to save the environment. He has been interested in researching renewable sources of energy and their real-life applications. After one of the virtual interactions with an expert in the field of sustainability, Robert became interested in upcycling. He participated in the class challenge of finding new uses for an old t-shirt. He is mindful of the use of daily resources. He cares about ensuring that all devices are off before leaving the classroom.

Hannah Hugh-Sam – Walter C. Young Middle School

Hannah Hugh-Sam is a seventh-grade student at Walter C. Young Middle School. Hannah's passions are drawing/arts and craft, sewing and knitting, reading and the environment. She is part of the Knights Environmental club at school. She enjoys gardening, recycling, and helping the environment at school and her community. She refrains from using plastic and likes to upcycle and make new things from the recycle items. She is engaged in different clubs at school such as, Student Government and NJHS. Hannah is an overachiever student, academically she has maintained her 4.0 GPA through her elementary and middle school. She is an extraordinary writer and reader. Her compassion and kindness to others is reflected on her day-to-day work at school. Hanna is an inspiration and role model to her peers.



Shrishon Kumarasri – Miramar High School

Shrishon is an influential student at Miramar High School. As an eleventh-grade student in the IB program at Miramar, Shrishon has dedicated his time towards educating fellow peers and underclassmen about the importance of environmental awareness. Although the youngest in his grade level, he has the greatest impact when it comes to educating his peers. His strong and passionate character as well as his clear goals to bring about environmental change within schools inspired upwards of 60 new members to join the Miramar Environmental Club. Having taken and passed the AP Environmental Science course and examination, Shrishon's understanding of the environment is profound. Not only has he taken the initiative within his classes and within his social groups, but Shrishon has been an active board member of the Environmental Club at Miramar. His passion and environmental concern have led him to join the Broward County Youth Climate Task Force, an initiative in which Shrishon, along with other students, represented the voices of all the students with the purpose of inputting the student concerns into the climate plan of Broward County for the next five years. Furthermore, Shrishon has also participated twice in the Southeast Regional Envirothon competition, aiding his team reach the level of states in 2022. Shrishon's passion for environmental awareness led him to initiate the Rising Waters collaboration project at his school, organizing an event where



many members came out to help decorate the school with indicators of how climate change influences the sea level and the effects that it would cause. Shrishon had the opportunity to meet keynote speaker Neil DeGrasse Tyson during the 3rd Annual Broward Youth Climate Summit, in which Shrishon had presented about founding an environmental club. Shrishon also presented in the 4th Annual Broward Youth Climate Summit, where he presented about the involvement students can have within their schools' environmental programs. Demonstrating leadership and passion, Shrishon's environmental feats lead him to become more invested in the environment and wants to teach about the importance of reducing climate change through changing small aspects of daily lifestyles. His interest in wildlife and nature arose when he was in elementary school and has lasted since, but his goal of environmental change through lifestyle change arose when he discovered that the rates of animal extinction are rising as humans make environmentally poor decisions. Shrishon's motto is, "Take initiative today so that we can look forward to tomorrow."

Alana Ojeda – Park Springs Elementary School

Alana Ojeda is an enthusiastic 5th grader at Park Springs Elementary. Her positive attitude and bubbly personality are contagious. It is almost impossible not to smile when Alana is around. Her hard work, passion and creativity shine through in ALL activities that she participates in. Alana is a busy bee! She is currently an active member of the environmental club, an anchor for the morning news team, a class representative, a Panther Pal to a pre-K student who has autism and is involved in gymnastics. In her spare time Alana enjoys drawing and coloring in her sketch book or reading a good book, or two, or four. Alana has always been interested in the environment and making a difference in the world. For those who know Alana, it's no surprise to hear her tell a classmate to recycle a plastic bottle or yell "Save The Turtles!" There is no doubt that Alana will make a difference in the world.



Lyndan Williams – Walter C. Young Middle School

Lyndan Williams is a seventh-grade student at Walter C. Young Middle School. He is a compassionate and caring person. He always helps others and gives ideas and suggestions to solve problems. He excels in everything that he puts his mind to. His passions are martial arts, scientific experiments, cooking, the environment, problem solving, and debates. Lyndan is the President of the Knights Environmental Club. Every Friday morning, he is the first to come to the club. He demonstrates awareness of nature and is always looking for solutions to beautify the school campus. He serves as a role model to his peers and the school community. He loves to bring new and innovative ideas to the club. Lyndan participates in all environmental activities at school and in the community as well. He says, "What I like about my community is the people, gardens, and activities in it." He listens and collaborates with others. He is very patient and has an enthusiastic sense of humor. This year he participated in the 4th Annual Broward Youth Summit Virtually and in person and shared his ideas with his fellow students. Academically, Lyndan has demonstrated through the years at Walter C. Young that he is on the top students at school by keeping his 4.0 GPA. He is an inspiration for other students and his community.



EDUCATOR NOMINEES

Elementary School Educators

Kelly De Varona – Davie Elementary

Kelly De Varona is currently a math coach and a Green Team sponsor at Davie ES. Her passion and determination for environmental issues and a sustainable lifestyle is changing the culture at Davie ES. Mrs. De Varona started the Mustang Davie Green Team to foster students' love of the environment by teaching them about the negative impact of waste, hazards of plastic, sustainable gardening practices and the wonders of pollinators. The Green team members learn to work together to get a task done and explore ways of how to make a positive impact on the environment. Mrs. De Varona's Green Team members are role models for other students and staff members. Mrs. De Varona started a butterfly garden on the campus and has continued to expand the garden to several areas on the campus over the past five years. The butterfly garden areas provide butterflies and other pollinating insects with a safe, organic habitat that is accessible to all students. Students and teachers are free to interact with nature as they play, eat a snack or participate in an outdoor lesson. While students maintain and care for the garden, they learn to appreciate how hard work can result in a yummy vegetable or a beautiful flower.



Peggy Ann Morgan – Floranada Elementary



I have been teaching the Science special at Floranada Elementary for four years. Prior to that I taught in Miami-Dade County. I attended the Broward NatureScape training in the summer and was inspired to change our campus to be more Florida native friendly. I started a beautification project that has become a NWF certified habitat. I worked with the Garden club to move their location to a new area in the school. I started a Sunflower Garden with first grade from seeds. I am working with my Earth Day Everyday club to keep our campus clean and plant Native plants along the bus ramp area and also create an edible flower garden. I am also in the process of making our school a gold level Everglades Champion school. I have been working closely with the Art teacher on various Everglades projects. I have collaborated with the Fifth-grade teachers on climate and the environment.

Elizabeth Norrell – Griffin Elementary



Betsy Norrell is our Physical Education teacher. She has been at Griffin Elementary for over 20 years and is retiring this year after 30 years in education. Several years ago, our school received a BlueSky grant from Johnson Controls to build garden beds in our environmental area. Initially we tried to have the teachers integrate the garden into their classrooms. When that model proved to be unsuccessful Betsy stepped up and decided to work with all students (K-5) during her Science Fridays on growing vegetables in our garden. She started in the summer of 2017 by taking a two-day course on School Gardens, hosted by Ag in the Classroom. During the workshop she learned how to integrate garden concepts into the curriculum and how to prepare our garden bounty to introduce students to fresh vegetables, which they grew themselves. Students planted seeds, replenished soil, weeded gardens, harvested vegetables, and then were able to taste the vegetables they harvested. She has been growing vegetables consecutively (except for COVID) for the past five years in addition to managing an incredibly demanding and exceptional Physical Education program which has gained district wide recognition.

Jill Putney – Tradewinds Elementary

Jill Putney is a 4th and 5th grade teacher at Tradewinds Elementary School. She has been an environmental steward since coming to Tradewinds in 2003. She started the school-wide recycling program at Tradewinds 19 years ago. She also adopted the road adjacent to the school to make it cleaner and safer for wildlife. Both projects were honored at the state level and were awarded the top prize in the Jiminy Cricket Environmental Challenge. Ms. Putney and her class have participated in many beach clean-ups over the years, making sure that trash and debris do not enter our precious ocean. She also urged the City of Hillsboro Beach to go dark for sea turtles, and she even received a phone call from the mayor thanking her for her class's efforts. In addition, she has made her school more aware of the excess lunchbox litter by asking students to calculate the amount of lunchbox litter being thrown away each day. Her class helped the school become more aware of the problem, and they have since reduced the number of disposable bags and drinks brought to school. In addition, Ms. Putney recently revitalized the Arielle Anacker Butterfly Garden at Tradewinds. Arielle was a former student who lost her battle to Ewing's Sarcoma in 1999. Her garden had become overgrown and neglected over the years, but she and her class restored the garden back to its original beauty. It has become an area of tranquility and peace at Tradewinds. The garden has since been rededicated to Arielle's family, and her class continues to take care of it, so it can be appreciated for years to come. Furthermore, Ms. Putney received a \$14,000 grant from Home Depot to beautify the school's campus. Ms. Putney organized a school-wide beautification day on a Saturday, and more than 300 participants came out to share in Ms. Putney's vision to beautify the school. New picnic tables, plants, flowers, trees, mulch, and rocks adorn the school thanks to her environmental stewardship.



Middle School Educators

Grisel Berrios – Walter C. Young Middle

Mrs. Berrios promotes understanding of concepts, issues, feelings, values, attitudes, and perceptions at the heart of environmental issues. She brings environmental guest speakers to her classroom and environmental club. The guest speakers bring activities for students to connect with the outdoors and lifelong learning experiences. She uses alternative methods for teaching like Growing Beyond Earth NASA citizen project and Everglades Literacy Program. She likes to make awareness of the environment and how important it is to take care of the environment by making sustainable projects for the school. Creating Native plant gardens, recycling programs, and reducing energy conception at school.



Judy Bremner – Sawgrass Springs Middle



Judy Bremner is a 7th grade Science teacher at Sawgrass Springs Middle School in Coral Springs, FL. She has been teaching in the Broward School District since 2005. She also heads up the school’s SAVE- (Students Against Violence Everywhere)- Promise Club and works with the Student Services Division of Broward County Schools to support SAVE Promise Clubs in all of the Middle and High Schools throughout the county. For the past few years, Judy has served on the District’s Social Emotional Learning Committee, as she is passionate about student MENTAL wellness. In addition, Judy is an ambassador for greater PHYSICAL wellbeing, as she volunteers for the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. Judy has partnered with the Grants Department of Broward County Schools in order to coauthor numerous grants to implement improved School Safety and Wellness programming for

Broward School District. In fact, Judy’s passion for mental wellbeing can be seen through the current Project-Based Learning project that she is carrying out entitled “Mental Wellness through Gardening”.

Francisco Gonzalez – Silver Lakes Middle

Francisco Gonzalez is an innovative National Board Certified Music teacher who colors outside the lines of his subject to draw in his music students to develop environmental awareness and advocacy. His environmental work focuses on campus beautification to increase biodiversity especially with larval and butterfly hosts. He has partnered many years with Wellness in the Schools to promote herb gardening for healthy eating and currently aligns efforts with NatureScape as an environmental contact at Silver Lakes Middle School within Broward’s Connectivity Project. His approach is to lead environmental stewardship by example and invite students into environmental stewardship. This



takes the form of his music classes electing to take a “brain break” for garden maintenance, offering community service opportunities for students within the afterschool program, inclusion of SVE students or volunteering a planning period for an optional student “Garden Lunch and Learn” hands-on student learning experience with NatureScape. He promotes the school garden as a special venue for his music students to perform for community events such as Hispanic Heritage Month and 5th grade campus orientation tours.

High School Educators

Nancy Lovera – Cross Creek



Ms. Nancy Lovera is a dedicated educator who teaches Cross Creek’s Community-Based Instruction (CBI) class for high school students. She began as a substitute teacher in 1999, however quickly found her niche as a full-time teacher with CBI. She teaches hands on life skills to prepare the students for the real world after graduation. One of her biggest passions is having the ability to create learning environments that are hands on. It is very important the curriculum/lessons include both hands on and intellectual classroom activities for the students to have a full understanding of the topic. Ms. Lovera plans to bring back the green team next year so the school can focus on other areas.

Richard Lamarre – Miramar High

Richard Lamarre is a passionate teacher of 8 years, teaching a variety of subjects in science such as Anatomy and Physiology, Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, AP Environmental Science, IB Environmental Systems and Societies, as well as SAT/ACT Prep. He tries to find ways to integrate humor into all aspects of my curriculum. He is one that values a strong work ethic while still taking the time to enjoy the little things. Helping children has always been his ambition, as he went to medical school to be a pediatrician. Fortunately, he found his calling in helping children through education. Since being hired at Miramar High, Richard applied his tutoring skills to instructing students in the classroom, making the courses he teaches engaging and easy for the students to grasp even the most difficult concepts. His educational teaching goals are to preserve college-ready students by influencing and engaging them in mastering science topics and themes. With the help of the school's Environmental Club and ESE Department, Mr. Lamarre launched the school's recycling program to continue with measures to save the environment one recycling bin at a time. He has also coached his students to compete in the regional and state Envirothon for the past 4 years. Richard brought the classroom outside, sparking the students’ interest in creating an irrigation system and butterfly and vegetable garden, which took three years in the making. Mentoring is also another passion of his. At Miramar High School, he is a host teacher for Mentoring Tomorrow's Leaders (MTL). Through this program, he has introduced several mentors to mentees and has a solid track record of on-time graduation rates and college readiness for both mentors and mentees. Not only is student mentoring important to him, but peer mentoring as well. Beyond the classroom, Richard has had the role of secretary for the school's Sunshine Club. The time and commitment to the Sunshine clubs is outside of school hours to boost teacher engagement and morale in their roles in education.



CUSTODIAL STAFF NOMINEES

Michael Jones – Park Springs Elementary

Mr. Jones began his relationship with Park Springs Elementary over 10 years ago as a facilities service person. From the beginning, he exemplified great enthusiasm and dedication to ensure the health and safety of our facilities for all students and staff. Due to the wake of the pandemic, this has increased the priority of health and environmental safety for our students and staff throughout the district. Despite the unknown, Mr. Jones has made an unwavering commitment to upkeep the beautification and safety of Park Springs' campus and adjust as needed. Mr. Jones has leveraged district support and built collegial and cooperative partnerships to create a sustainable and clean learning environment. Mr. Jones has been a staple in our community by going above and beyond to meet the needs of our students and staff. Mr. Jones has influenced students to recycle, care for the campus community, use the proper disposal techniques around the campus, and he has also supported our aftercare students in planting flowers for Earth Day.



Mr. Jones has fostered genuine relationships with our PSE family and has high expectations as he leads the facilities team. Mr. Jones continues to make an impact as he maintains the rich culture and climate of the school's campus of operational and maintenance efficiency. Mr. Jones has left an impression on the students that he serves daily. It is always heart-warming to hear the students yell "Hi, Mr. Mike!" as they are greeted with a high five. Whether Mr. Jones is cleaning up a spill, fixing the air conditioner, air blowing the leaves, pressure washing the sidewalk, or opening the gate, his positive attitude and willingness are immeasurable and noteworthy. Mr. Jones continues to lead the facilities team through coaching, feedback, and capacity building. It has been an honor to work with Mr. Jones as he takes pride in maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff daily.

Dan Skula – Central Park Elementary

Mr. Daniel Skula, a veteran custodian of 30 years at BCPS, is currently the Head Custodian at Central Park Elementary in Plantation. His involvement in sustainability practices and education goes beyond his daily custodial responsibilities. Hard working, always optimistic, and sporting a big smile on his face, he undoubtedly contributes to the positive culture and climate of the school. His diligence in monitoring, troubleshooting and maintaining all operating systems at Central Park is evident. When you see him walking down the halls, you can't help but notice his positive interactions with the CPE students and staff. Mr. Skula played an instrumental role in helping CPE become a Wildlife Habitat certified school by ensuring that the campus is covered in well maintained native plants attracting pollinators and native wildlife. He is always ready and willing to assist teachers and students with green initiatives including building and maintaining school gardens, ensuring proper recycling practices, installing outdoor weather stations, creating conditions for air sensors to be placed in various locations of the campus and more.



Miguel Rodriguez – Walter C. Young Middle



Miguel Rodriguez is part of the Walter C. Young Custodial Team. Miguel has been working at WCY since 2018. He is an important part of this year's Recycling program. Miguel makes sure that each custodial employee at the school collects the blue recycling bins each Friday. He makes sure that the material that teachers and students are collecting are recyclable items. Every Friday at the end of the day, Miguel collects all the recyclables bags from Mrs. Berrios' classroom and takes them to the big recycling container at school. Miguel has a key role in teaching others the importance of recycling and reducing waste at school. Miguel says, "The recycling program has reduced the

amount of waste they used to collect." Miguel also makes sure that we continue conserving energy by turning off all the classroom and office lights when he finishes cleaning each room. He goes around the campus to make sure all lights are turned off. Miguel is a mentor to our students by showing his support to the recycling program and energy conservation. His leadership shows how an entire community can work together to impact the environment. He is a key to having a successful environmental program at Walter C. Young that impacts the students, teachers, staff, and the community. He is truly an inspiration for our school community.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL NOMINEE

Jaqueline Sanchez – Griffin Elementary

We are so fortunate to have Jacqueline Sanchez at Griffin Elementary. She is passionate about the environment, working with students to promote environmental literacy, and helping others. Over 15 years ago she assumed the role of sponsor of Griffin's Eco Patrol. She started a full-scale, student-driven, recycling program at Griffin. Now, in addition to her regular duties as a full-time Micro Tech Specialist, for 23 years, she has been working more closely with students who are eager to learn about our environment and how to make our school more sustainable. Mrs. Sanchez is a life-long learner and active community member, who became involved in a monthly group called the Green League of Broward County, where she met an avian biologist who was working on burrowing owls. Since many Broward schools have burrowing owls, she mentioned that she should partner with them and thus, a countywide partnership with Project Perch was started. She has won numerous grants for Griffin over the years to enhance our outdoor classroom, as well as a grant for our school's 3D printer and technology for in the classroom. Mrs. Sanchez is a true environmental champion and enthusiast. She constantly shares new strategies with the students, staff, and parents. Her passion is evident and spreading to the entire community.



SCHOOL NOMINEES

Central Park Elementary – Categories 3, 4, and 6

Central Park Elementary is a public school located in Plantation. The school currently serves approximately 800 students and prides itself on creating meaningful educational opportunities in a beautiful campus surrounded by native flora and fauna. Central Park ES has been a certified Wildlife Habitat school for years and is currently working towards

achieving the Green Apple status. CPE students are engaged daily in activities

that nurture their minds and souls as they grow to become vocal and aware members of their local community. CPE students are involved in authentic educational experiences that remind them to be mindful of their impact on the environment and empower them to make the necessary changes to reduce the carbon footprint.



Challenger Elementary – Category 3

Challenger Elementary School has been working in the past couple of years to build and sustain its Green Program at the school. With covid being around for the past two years, our Recycling Program had to be put temporarily on hold as well as our garden restoration project with the roofers repairing equipment blocking off the area. This has not detoured us from continuing to educate the students on environmental changes and what they can do to in and out of the classroom. Making sure the curriculum comes to life with real world experiences that connect to the National Sunshine State Standards and are incorporated into our interdisciplinary units of study. Students in grades K-5th have been learning about the different environments around them through various projects related to STEM. Pulling from resources like Virtual Field Trips offered through Discovery Education to visit farms in different states, learning from scientists who track data of migration paths of birds, to discovering the Artemis Program through NASA. Students are making connections on how these environmental changes can affect them every day. Comprehending how food chains play a role in each ecosystem and then creating their own food chains to represent the different environments they have researched. Taking things, a step further and building sustainable housing using Legos and Magna Tiles. How can these new home creations be used to protect the people that live there, but also the animals and plants? Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle was discussed as students learned about the capsule that returns the astronauts back to Earth as they have completed their missions. Students were to now build parachute devices to prevent their “Eggstonaut” from cracking upon landing. Using everyday household items to build their projects. As the year begins to end, students are now learning about



sustainability and what it means to grow their own food. With garden bags outside the Science Specials Classroom, students will dive further into life cycles of animals and plants and understand that they can regrow and plant food from the items they have at home. These resources and more will open the doors for the students to think outside the box and understand the changes the world goes through everyday and make those real-life connections to find solutions to some of these problems.

Cross Creek – Category 1



Cross Creek School is an Exceptional Learning Education (ESE) center that offers students integrated educational experiences at levels ranging from kindergarten through twelfth grade and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Staff work together to develop innovative methods to integrate the curriculum and help prepare students for careers/college. Students come to us in order to meet their individual needs for both clinical and academic growth. Cross Creek staff are sensitive to the needs of the students and their families. The staff is concerned with the "whole child". Activities are planned to provide maximum therapeutic, behavioral, and

academic growth. We are creative in our strategies, interventions and interactions with every child. Cross Creek School offers a highly structured behavioral and educational environment provided by professional, trained, and caring staff. Our staff utilizes specific behavior management systems, which allow the student to experience immediate behavioral success. The student is taught appropriate behaviors and allowed to "practice" both academic and social skills.

Dave Thomas – All Categories

The purpose of our gardening project is to teach, motivate and practice gardening here at Dave Thomas Education Center (DTEC). It is the vision of our principal, to graduate our student with life skills, so they can enter the job force after high school. DTEC is a public, alternative school for students who have not achieved success in standard middle and high school. The school has about 478 students who are overaged, short on credits, and/or low GPA from seventh grade through



twelve grades. The demographics of the school are as follows: 70% Black, 20% Hispanic and 26% White. Over 86% of our school's students receive free or reduced lunch due to economic hardship.

Davie Elementary – Category 1



Over the past five years the Davie Green Team has worked to turn vacant spaces on school grounds into inviting gardens filled with native plants and an herb and veggie garden. The motive for enhancing these spaces was to beautify the campus, provide habitats for wildlife and give students and staff peaceful places to play, sit and teach. Most students don't have the opportunity to observe plants or vegetables grow at home and have even less of an opportunity to work in a garden. The gardens provide experiences for students and staff to gain appreciation for plants and insects. The Davie Green Team collaborated with University School's

Environmental Club to plan and maintain the garden areas. The goal has been to provide the correct balance of host plants and nectar plants for various species of butterflies. Our campus is now a home for monarchs, Atalas, zebra longwings, two species of swallowtails, gulf fritillaries and orange-barred sulfurs. With the help of community members, students and staff we have removed non-native plants from existing garden beds and incorporated native plants in order to provide food and shelter for wildlife. This year Davie Elementary is the proud benefactor of two Eagle Scout Projects. One project is providing seating for our chess area garden and the other project will add two garden beds to an unadorned area. These reclaimed areas will encourage teachers to have discussions about plants, insects and their interdependence as well as their importance to humans. The garden areas were made possible through the support of parent donations of plants, grants from Dream in Green, Home Depot and Broward Farm Bureau.



Floranada Elementary – Categories 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6



At Floranada Elementary School we have strived to implement environmentally sustainable measures and green initiatives this school year. We are striving to have our students become stewards of the environment. They have learned about the Everglades in depth from Pre-K thru Fifth grade. The fifth graders added onto what Kindergarten and Pre-K learned during the Science special when they lesson planned and taught the students. We cleared a previously neglected area of the school and have made it into a NWF certified habitat. We relocated the Garden club area to a more accessible and safe part of the school. In addition, the Earth Day Everyday club cleans the school weekly and maintains an edible flower and herb garden so that students can connect farm to table for their food. We also emphasize no food waste by having the share table in the cafeteria. There is also the Green Team that collects the recycling twice weekly. Our head custodian and first assistant custodian attended the

Naturescape Water Trainings. We are also planting Florida Native Plants along the bus ramp for the pollinators. Pre-K has placed their frog/toad, lizard and bug houses they made along the area as well. Floranada is committed to keeping the Earth clean and green for our future stewards and everyone.

Lauderdale Lakes Middle – Categories 1 and 6

Lauderdale Lakes Middle School opened its doors to the City of Lauderdale Lakes in 1969. The school site sits off of a major North/South artery that services a diverse multi-ethnic community of Central Broward County. Over the past 53 years, Lauderdale Lakes Middle has cultivated a school climate that embraces and nurtures diversity and multiculturalism as it facilitates student growth and development. Before Lauderdale Lakes Middle school was built, the land was part of the everglades then cleared for grazing and farming. Now the land is an urban concrete jungle that turned Middle River into a canal and with lots students passing through its halls. As time has gone on students and staff have finally realized the true value of the environment and how if we



do not treat the planet with respect all life will slowly perish. The students and staff are trying to make Lauderdale Lakes Middle school and its surrounding biological community better.

Manatee Bay Elementary – Category 6

Manatee Bay Elementary is located in West on, Florida. The school has



an Intellectual Disabilities Special Program. 3 years ago they began using an unused garden as a project and in turn added it as part of their curriculum. The garden teaches not only academics but also responsibility and sustainability. We support our

garden through donations from our families and grants. We share the fruits of our garden with family, friends, and teachers.



Miramar High – All Categories



Miramar High School offers a wide variety of course offerings and special programs. Our course offerings allow each student to complete a high school program designed around the student's needs and interests. Whether you are a member of the International Baccalaureate Program, Aviation Program, or a member of one of our 15 career and technical programs, Miramar High School offers a wide variety of courses for all interests. We currently offer 22 dual enrollment classes on our

campus through Embry Riddle University and Florida International University! All students are provided engaging educational opportunities through a rigorous curriculum, innovative technology, and involvement in our diverse community. We strive to produce responsible citizens who contribute to the present and excel in the future. From all our diversity, we are lucky to have a plethora of ideas of ways to inform our students of environmental initiatives. Whether its Environmental Science Honors, AP (Advanced Placement) Environmental Science, Dual Enrollment Environmental Science, or our

International Baccalaureate Environmental Systems and Societies courses offered, students can understand our impact on the Earth. And in case students want to further expand their passion to learn and help mitigate environmental issues, students can join the Environmental Club. Our Environmental Club is currently working to make MHS a Green School. The Environmental Club, along with the ESE department, implemented a Recycling Program last year, working to build and maintain a butterfly/vegetable garden, and applied for a grant to further educate our students on agriculture and gardening. We intend on using the garden as a diverse way to have students learn important concepts like soil quality including pH and macronutrients, irrigation methods, and crop rotation outside of the classroom. In addition to the garden, we are organizing beach cleanups and beautification projects. For the first time we participated in the Rising Waters Project, a visual model of rising sea levels as a result of global climate change. We were recently accepted into the Tea Garden Program, where students will learn how to sustainably grow edible food together in their neighborhood. Every year, our students compete in the Southeast Regional Envirothon to expand and showcase our knowledge in Environmental Science. The past 4 years we were able to also compete in the State Envirothon. We are striving to educate our students in Environmental Science issues every year.



Park Springs Elementary – Categories 1 and 3



Park Springs Elementary Environmental Club continues to grow! The PSE Environmental Club is comprised of a diverse group of 32, 3rd through 5th grade students who are all eager to make a difference not only at our school but also in our community. As a club, students are given the opportunity to come up with ideas for projects and activities they want to do throughout the year. The Club has two advisors whose main role is to aid students in making these projects come to life. During the 2021-2022 school year the students were excited to “get back to normal.” Students participated in a variety of projects that included a focused on educating others, learning more about the environment through community event, creating recycled art and gardening. We were as busy as bees but it was all worth it to make a difference at Park Springs.

Sawgrass Springs Middle – Category 1

Sawgrass Springs Middle School, (SSMS), has always been at the forefront of fostering awareness of natural and built environments for the purpose of environmental education. For example, the school has a butterfly garden habitat, a gopher tortoise preserve, and is currently in the process of implementing a project-based learning project entitled “Using Nature to Improve Mental Health”.



Silver Shores Elementary – Categories 1, 2, and 6



Silver Shores Elementary is an Eco-friendly school. We use a variety of ways to help students understand and appreciate the world around us. We use our certified grounds, gardens, and curriculum to help our students have a greater understanding about nature and ecological topics. We participated school wide to help reduce our electrical and water usage. We joined the Miami Heat challenge for the third year and each year we keep on improving and limiting our usage. We also have a beautiful butterfly garden with benches for teachers and students to interact. This year we started our organic garden in paint buckets to help reduce waste and to be able to maintain the plants. We also have beautified the grounds by cleaning up multiple areas around the school. The club worked hard getting their message out by establishing and creating a web site for our club. We also have grown herbs in the classroom for the first time this year with our Tower Garden. We provided fresh herbs to staff and students. This year was an incredibly special year for us. We dedicated this year to the founder of our Eco Club, Star Rosario. She unexpectedly passed away this year and is missed dearly. We revamped the entire butterfly garden and had a new butterfly bench placed in the garden in her honor. We had a ceremony with the family and staff to show our appreciation for all she did. Finally, we invited the early intervention class to help us garden and plant this year. The experience was wonderful. They put together the earth day gifts we gave to the school, and they participated in a school wide recycling challenge we had for Earth week. Silver Shores elementary worked hard this year to have many firsts and we hope to continue to keep the pride and dedication that our school has for helping others and educating our students, staff, and community about the environment.

Walter C. Young Middle – All Categories



Walter C. Young Middle School provides students with an environmental focus that encourages students to participate in creating sustainable healthy environments for learning and living. Students benefit from purposeful learning, and opportunities to develop as leaders, stewards, and responsible citizens.

