

Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Environmental Literacy

An Innovative Curriculum for Achievement & Stewardship





Environmentally literate students will be active and engaged citizens who will continue to care for the health and welfare of the world that we live in.

The Anne Arundel County Public Schools Environmental Literacy Plan

is an innovative curriculum project that prepares our students to become active and responsible stewards of our natural world. It is a Pre-K through grade twelve multi-disciplinary plan that connects traditional classroom activities to effective outdoor learning experiences. This is an exciting systemic and systematic approach that supports getting ***every student*** outdoors ***every year***. At the same time, it aligns local and state curriculum standards and the Common Core Initiative.

Anne Arundel County is a unique Chesapeake watershed county with 12 river systems, 354 streams, and 540 miles of tidal shoreline. All students live a short distance from a waterway leading to the Chesapeake Bay. What better way to learn the science, culture, and work of our communities than to move to our outdoor classrooms.

As a result of our Environmental Literacy Plan, students will be prepared to tackle the difficult environmental issues in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and the United States with 21st Century skills and knowledge. Environmentally literate students will be active and engaged citizens who will continue to care for the health and welfare of the world that we live in.





Students will graduate

with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to care for our natural world. This is a result of a system-wide, multi-disciplinary Environmental Literacy Plan where:

Every Student will learn outdoors Every Year

School-based outdoor learning
(Pre K – 12)

AACPS Environmental/Outdoor Program experiences
(Woodlands – Grade K | Arlington Echo – Grade 4)

Non-AACPS outdoor program experiences at partner sites
(Grades K–12)

Stem field research

Every Teacher will be trained to implement and support Environmental Literacy

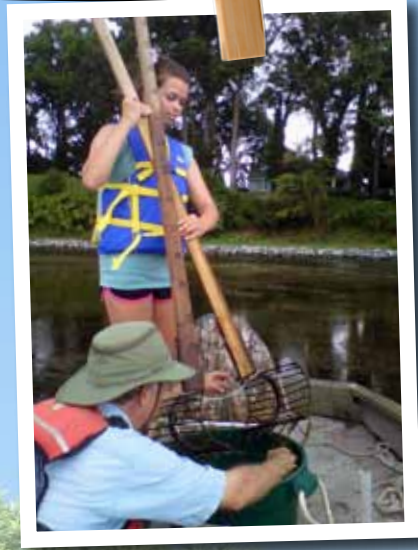
School staff introductions to Environmental Literacy

Grade-level professional development

Specialized training in field investigations at a partner site

System-wide exposure
(BOE Members, Executive Staff, as well as all AACPS employees)

Environmental Literacy



Every School will be a Green School or Facility

MAEOE Maryland Green School Certification

Green buildings

(Facilities Division collaboration)

Healthy schools

(Food Service Division collaboration)

Every Curricular Area will integrate and align Environmental Literacy with State and National Standards

Local environmental issue investigation

Alignment with MD Environmental Literacy Standards, Content Standards, Common Core, and STEM

Teaching & Learning Model will close the achievement gap and provide differentiated instruction

In order to make our students successful citizens of the world, the AACPS Environmental Literacy Plan has taken a **systemic** and **systematic** approach to our curriculum. The following charts are a listing of issues that are studied or are being developed at **each grade level (PreK-8)** as well as by **subject area (grades 9-12)**

Environmental Literacy Grade-Level Overview Pre-K–8

Grade	Investigative Issue	Outdoor Learning Location	Status
Pre-K	Rally for Recycling What's the trouble with trash?	Schoolyard	2012-2013 Full Implementation
K	More Trees, Please! Why are trees terrific?	Camp Woodlands Environmental/Outdoor Education Center	2011-2012 Full Implementation
1	Monarchs Take Flight How can we help Monarch butterflies?	Schoolyard	2012-2013 38 Schools
2	Habitat Happenings How can we enhance wildlife habitats?	Schoolyard/Community	2012-2013 Development
3	How Cool is Composting? How does composting help the environment?	Schoolyard	2012-2013 Development & Pilot 26 Schools
4	Watershed Wonders How has human land use affected living things in the Chesapeake Bay?	Arlington Echo Environmental/Outdoor Education Center	2011-2012 Full Implementation
5	Greening Schools How do we make our school greener?	Schoolyard/Community	2012-2013 Full Implementation
	Be Safe! What skills do we need to enjoy aquatic environments safely?	Drownproofing Program Environmental/Outdoor Education Center	Full Implementation
6	Chesapeake Bay Issues How can we use the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay in a sustainable way?	Various locations with support from Chesapeake Connections	2012-2013 Development & Pilot Partnerships with Chesapeake Bay Foundation & Annapolis Maritime Museum
7	Making A Difference How can we reduce our personal ecological footprint?	Schoolyard/Community	Future Planning
8	Global Issues How do global/regional environmental issues affect the local environment?	Schoolyard/Community Future Planning	Future Planning



*"We all left with an experience that will stick in all our minds, possibly forever!
What a difference that has made for the love of nature and the children!"*
Charlene Bees, Brooklyn Park-First Grade Teacher

Environmental Literacy Overview **High School**

Course	Investigative Issue	Outdoor Learning Location	Status
Biology	BioBlitz How does our schoolyard habitat and biodiversity compare with others, and what can we do to improve?	Schoolyard	2012-2013 Full Implementation
Government	Environmental Policy Is there a law to protect that, is it working?	Schoolyard	2012-2013 Full Implementation
FACS	Sustainable Table How can individual choices help the environment?	Community	2012-2013 All Nutrition Classes
Internships	STEM Research Bay Grasses, Phytoplankton, Atlantic White Cedar and Terrapins	Various research locations	Summer 2012
Journalism	Environmental Journalism Journalism students research and report on environmental issues for school newspapers	Various locations	2012-2013 Development
U.S. History	Industrial Revolution How did the Industrial Revolution have an impact on the environment?	Undetermined	2012-2013 Development
Technology	<i>Idea:</i> Curriculum Review of CTE Programs of Study, as well as Foundations of Technology, to infuse EL Standards while highlighting GREEN JOBS	Undetermined	Future Planning
Health	<i>Idea:</i> Environmental factors affecting health, do outdoor experiences improve mood, ability to learn, concentrate?	Undetermined	Future Planning
Advisory	<i>Idea:</i> Train Environmental Club members to perform energy audit at school and design schoolwide lessons (during advisory time) to increase recycling and reduce energy use by all students.	Undetermined	Future Planning
Additional Opportunities	<i>Idea:</i> Environmental Action Projects: <i>Bay Grasses • Eels • Restoration • Diamondback Terrapins</i>	Various locations Chesapeake Connections Environmental/ Outdoor Education Office	Ongoing

Action projects are aligned with Service Learning.



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank ***Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, AACPS Superintendent of Schools***, for his vision of Environmental Literacy and outdoor learning for all students.

Additionally, we would like to express our appreciation to the following groups for their support of Environmental Literacy in preparing students with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to make and act upon responsible environmental decisions as individuals and members of their communities:

Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's Children In Nature Partnership

Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Maryland Coalition for No Child Left Inside (MCNCLI)

The Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education



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