

Press from:

The New Providence School District  
356 Elkwood Avenue  
New Providence, NJ 07974  
Phone: (908) 464-9050  
Date: April 17, 2024



**For Release:** TapInto

**Submitted by:** New Providence School District

**Subject:** New Providence High School awarded sustainability grant

New Providence High School was awarded a \$2,000 Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant funded by the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA).

New Providence High School teachers Alexandra Martin and Dr. Paula McGraw wrote the grant proposal to continue funding the Hydroponics Garden and Outdoor Learning Center at New Providence High School. The grant will allow New Providence High School to continue supporting hydroponic grow walls (the process of growing plants with added nutrients, but without soil). Herbs can be grown for cooking in the Foods class in the Family and Consumer Science room. Seedlings may also be started for the greenhouse used by high school students in a variety of classes.

“On behalf of New Providence High School and the New Providence School District, we would like to sincerely thank Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the NJEA for their incredible generosity and thoughtfulness in selecting us to receive a 2023 Sustainable Jersey Grant in the amount of \$2,000. We are incredibly appreciative and honored to receive this grant as it will allow us to continue to build our courtyard in order to provide our students and staff with meaningful and impactful learning opportunities. The monies received will go a long way in our continued efforts to refurbish and add to our courtyard with a focus in building our Japanese garden. Thank you again for your generosity and know the opportunities this will provide for our students and staff will carry on for many years to come.” said Brian Henry, Principal of New Providence High School and Middle School.

Overall, thirteen \$10,000 grants and twenty-five \$2,000 grants were distributed to support a variety of projects including hydroponics and aeroponics systems; outdoor school gardens; outdoor classrooms; food waste, recycling, and waste reduction initiatives including disposable water bottle reduction programs; composting and capturing biogas as a sustainable energy source; biodiversity projects and pollinator gardens; sustainability, STEAM and climate change curriculum; bike racks and maintenance stations; equitable communications training; green team capacity building and more.

“Our investment and partnership with Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a testament to our commitment to support a sustainable future for our students across the state,” said New Jersey Education Association President Sean M. Spiller. “We are so proud to be part of a program that directs resources right into our classrooms and communities. Our children have inherited an environment that is fraught with problems, from climate change, and plastic and trash clogging rivers and oceans, to the extinction of many species. Our generation must do everything we can to emphasize the value of sustainability and healthy practices. Ultimately, we want our children to become engaged citizens and leaders in sustainability.” In addition to \$2.25 million in grant funding and program assistance, NJEA supports Sustainable Jersey for Schools as a program underwriter.

“Congratulations grant recipients. We hope this funding is transformational to your sustainability programs and creates a ripple effect of awareness across your community. Thank you, NJEA for providing the crucial financial support needed to make these projects possible,” said Sustainable Jersey Executive Director Randall Solomon. An independent Blue-Ribbon Selection Committee judged the proposals.

#### About Sustainable Jersey for Schools

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a certification program for public schools in New Jersey. It was launched by Sustainable Jersey, an organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward municipalities and schools as they pursue sustainability programs. To date, 1,180 schools are participating in the program. Sustainable Jersey for Schools has awarded over \$3.1 million in grants to schools and school districts. To learn more about Sustainable Jersey for Schools, visit: [www.sustainablejerseyschools.com](http://www.sustainablejerseyschools.com)

#### About the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA)

NJEA is the state’s largest association of education professionals, representing over 200,000 elementary and secondary teachers, administrators, higher education faculty, educational support professionals, retirees, and students preparing to become teachers. To learn more about NJEA, visit [www.njea.org](http://www.njea.org).



Pictured L-R:

Mike Rollins, Field Representative, NJEA

Alexandra Martin, New Providence High School

Randy Solomon, Executive Director, Sustainable Jersey