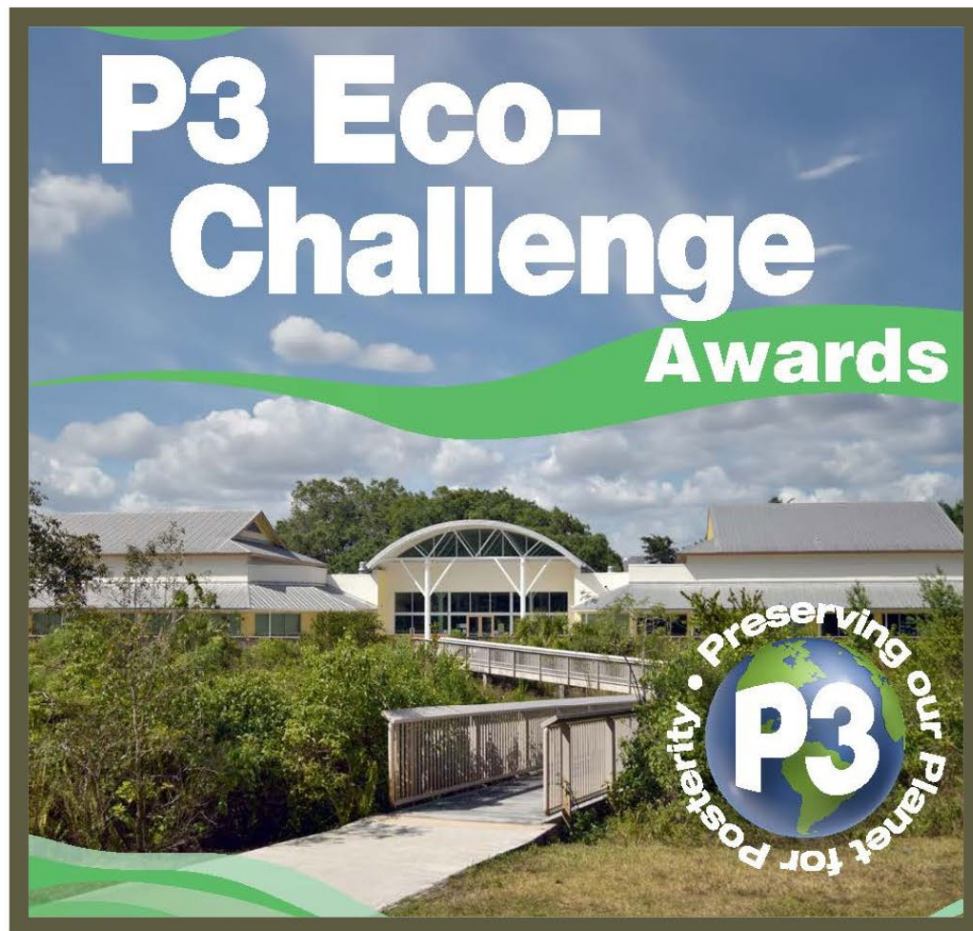


2026 NOMINEES



LONG KEY NATURE CENTER, DAVIE

MAY 6, 2026



Information from the nominee's application

STUDENT NOMINEES

Elementary School Students

Saxon Brody

Central Park Elementary School



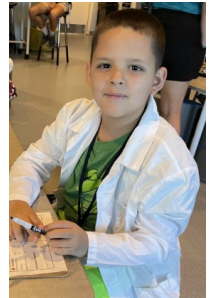
ability to inspire others, makes him a standout leader among his peers.

Saxon Brody is a third-grade student at Central Park Elementary and a dedicated Everglades Student Ambassador since second grade who exemplifies outstanding environmental leadership. He was part of the winning team in the district Battle of the Beaches Minecraft sustainability challenge, where students designed a virtual sustainable ecosystem, and he actively educates his peers by delivering schoolwide sustainability updates during morning announcements. Saxon also demonstrates his commitment through hands-on action, helping maintain the school garden and butterfly habitat while leading by example as one of the first students to arrive - gardening gloves on and ready to work. His passion for environmental stewardship, combined with his

Pablo Reyes

Park Springs Elementary

Pablo Reyes has been a dedicated member of the Park Springs Elementary Environmental Club for the past two years. His love for the environment can be seen through the projects he commits to both in and outside of school. He has participated in campus and beach clean ups, gardening initiatives and educational efforts about recycling. It's no secret, Pablo loves sea turtles! He is known for his constant efforts in not only trying to save them but educating others on how they can make a difference too!



Middle School Students

Bella Bolivar

Silver Shores STEM Academy K-8 School



others, helping her peers better understand the importance of environmental awareness and stewardship. You can find Bella in the school garden or bring in seeds and plants from home. Her passion for the environment is not only at school but in her everyday habits. You will find Bella always looking at books and doing research for our school grounds. She is eager to start projects that enhance our school.

Bella Bolivar is an outstanding 6th grade middle school student at Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8, who demonstrates a strong passion for the environment and a genuine love for nature. Over the past three years, she has become a dedicated member of the Eco Club and has consistently shown enthusiasm for improving her school surroundings, community and to help her fellow students learn. Bella is naturally curious and enjoys researching environmental topics, especially those related to native and non-native plants. She takes initiative in her learning and is willing to share her knowledge with



Olivia Daley

Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 School

Olivia is an 8th grade student. She has been attending Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 since 6th grade. She loves coming to school and she participates in multiple clubs. As a National Junior Honor Society, Olivia takes her role as secretary very seriously. Olivia is passionate about keeping the environment clean.

Eleonora Mariani

New River Middle School

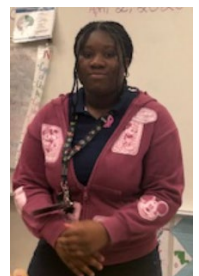


Eleonora is an exceptional and well-rounded eighth-grade student whose academic commitment, leadership skills, and environmental passion make her a deserving nominee for the P3 Eco Challenge Student category. She demonstrates an outstanding ability to balance rigorous academics with extracurricular involvement while consistently leading efforts that create meaningful environmental impact within her school and community. Eleonora serves as the President of the Eco-Sharks Environmental Club at New River Middle School, where she channels her passion for environmental stewardship into action. In this leadership role, she has initiated and supported numerous sustainability projects, represented her school at local and countywide events, and served as a confident youth advocate for environmental responsibility. Her leadership has empowered fellow students to take part in hands on environmental learning activities while strengthening community awareness and engagement.

Saniyah Smalls

Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 School

Saniyah is an 8th grader at Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. She has attended this school since kindergarten and has many friends. Saniyah is very talented and part of the band. She is a member of the National Junior Honors Society (NJHS). As a NJHS student, she demonstrates leadership skills and is active in student voice and volunteering.



Paul Thomson

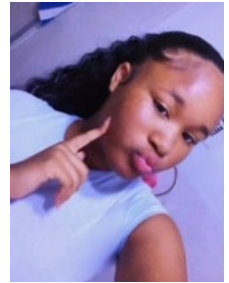
Silver Shores STEM Academy K-8 School



Paul Thomson is a sixth-grade student at Silver Shores STEAM Academy K–8 who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to environmental stewardship and emerging leadership. He possesses a strong understanding of environmental concepts and consistently applies what he learns in the classroom to real-world situations. Paul is particularly passionate about reducing food waste in the school cafeteria and has taken meaningful initiative to address this issue. As an active member of the Eco Club, he is leading efforts to establish a composting program for the cafeteria. Through his youth climate research project, Paul identified a practical and innovative solution to transform cafeteria food waste into compost for the school’s organic garden. This project reflects both his academic knowledge and his genuine desire to make a positive, lasting impact.

Deniah Williams

Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 School



Deniah is an 8th grade student at Annabel C. Perry PreK-8. She is a very bright student. Her favorite subjects are reading and math. Deniah is liked by her peers, and she aspires to make everyone around her feel comfortable. Deniah said that when she grows up, she would like to be a lawyer. Deniah is in a culinary class which she loves, and she is an outstanding cheerleader.

High School Students

Sophia Busch

South Plantation High School



Sophia Busch is a senior in the Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration Magnet Program at South Plantation High School whose commitment to environmental stewardship is both sustained and impactful. As President of the Horticulture Club, Sophia has led the development and expansion of a school-wide composting initiative, collaborating with programs such as Culinary Arts and working toward the first cafeteria composting pilot in Broward County Public Schools. Her ability to coordinate with administrators, community partners, and local officials highlights her professionalism and systems-level thinking. Sophia’s influence extends beyond campus. As the first student advisor to both the Plantation Sustainability and Resiliency Board and the BCPS Green Advisory Council, she has contributed to meaningful environmental initiatives at the municipal and district levels. She has also played a key role in expanding composting efforts to other schools and engaging younger students through outreach events and environmental education. Through her academic pursuits, leadership roles, and community partnerships, Sophia exemplifies the qualities of an environmental steward dedicated to creating sustainable, scalable solutions for her community.

Ethan Johnson

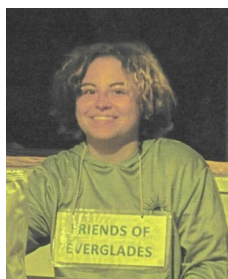
Dave Thomas Education Center

Ethan Johnson is a student at Dave Thomas Education Center who is actively engaged in environmental stewardship within his school community. He assists his science teacher in the development and maintenance of the school garden, contributing to a sustainable and productive learning environment. His work includes mixing soil and preparing growing bags to support healthy plant growth. He also transplants seedlings into these systems, helping to ensure the success and longevity of the garden. In addition, Ethan helped set up an irrigation system to efficiently conserve water and support plant life. He contributes to the care of the school's orchard by ensuring it is consistently maintained and properly watered. The garden he helps maintain has supported hands-on learning experiences for students and has produced food, such as cherry tomatoes, shared within the school community.



K'Lee Osinska

McArthur High School

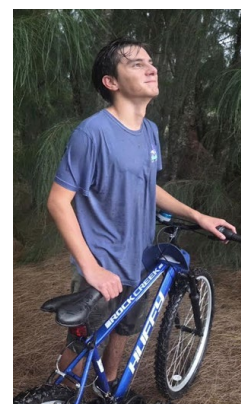


K'Lee is a 9th grader here at McArthur and she is a legacy student through her older sister Ciara who graduated a few years ago. K'Lee has demonstrated an eagerness to learn and be involved in our extracurricular activities like no other student previously enrolled at McArthur High School. I welcome her into our afterschool club(s) and highly recommend her for leadership roles as well as this award.

Jordan Pagan

South Plantation High School

As a kid, Jordan loved to go on hikes through the mountains, walk through paths in the forests, wade through rivers, and stand on the rocks by the coast. As he grew older, he gained an even deeper love for the natural world as he learned about how it works in school. Jordan is the vice president of the Everglades Restoration Ambassadors club at South Plantation High School where he helps organize and run environmental outreach events to educate and engage the public on pollution and climate solutions. In this club, he also helps tend to the school garden and remove any invasive plant species, as well managing campus beautifications and cleanups, where native plants are restored and plastic waste is removed. He is also the lead soil and land use expert on the South Plantation envirothon team where he has helped his team win for Broward county at the regional level three years in a row, and win second place overall his senior year. Jordan loves participating in community events like the International Coastal Cleanup dune restorations. He takes his passion for the environment home as well where he is constantly encouraging his family and friends to do their part in preserving natural resources and reducing their carbon footprint. Jordan is going to go to the Honors College program at Florida Gulf Coast University upon graduating from high school, where he will spend his time working towards an environmental studies master degree and he will join different environmental clubs to help make long lasting change in many areas.



Zephaniah Peart

Miramar High School



Zephaniah Peart is a Senior at Miramar High School. He is a part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, which challenges students with rigorous academic classes that reflect his passion for science such as AP and IB Chemistry and AP and IB Biology. These courses allowed Zephaniah to rise within the top 2% of his class and earned awards such as the AP Scholar with Honor award twice, in addition to the College Board National Recognition Program School Recognition Award. Outside of the classroom, he takes part in numerous clubs that align with his hobbies and interests of science and the environment. He is the current president of Miramar High School's Environmental Club, where he organizes and leads weekly garden cleanups across the school's three green spaces on campus. He also worked with club members at local events such as Broward County's Water Matters Day. Furthermore, under the Environmental Club, he has taken part in the Southeast Regional Envirothon, where under his leadership, his group won first place in the Wildlife Category two years in a row. He is also the Vice-President of the Science National Honor Society and STEM Club where he is able to compete in the Broward County SECME Competition, in which his group took home second place in the Solar Car Category. He is also a member of the Creativity, Activity, and Service (CAS) Club, where he aids his fellow IB students in fulfilling their CAS- hour requirements.

Valentina Rovito

South Plantation High School

Valentina is a senior in the Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration Magnet Program at South Plantation High School. Throughout her high school career, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to environmental awareness, leadership, and community engagement. Her academic experiences in environmental and marine science, combined with hands-on field studies in the Everglades and coastal ecosystems, have strengthened her understanding of environmental challenges and solutions. Valentina's passion for advocacy led her to join the Everglades Restoration Ambassadors (ER Ambassadors) as a freshman, where she progressed to Vice President and ultimately President. In this role, she has led initiatives such as campus cleanups, invasive species removal, and the restoration of a native butterfly garden. She also secured Youth Climate Action Fund grants to implement air quality monitoring systems and revive ER Immersion Day, an outreach program that teaches elementary students about climate change and sustainability. Beyond campus, Valentina has participated in dune restorations, waterway cleanups, and partnerships with the Youth Environmental Alliance. She is also a co-leader of the Envirothon team, contributing to regional and state-level success. Through her leadership and service, Valentina continues to inspire others and promote environmental stewardship.



CUSTODIAL STAFF NOMINEES

Ricardo Jimenez

Driftwood Elementary School



Mr. Ricardo Jimenez has committed himself to maintaining high standards of cleanliness and functionality in our schools for many years. As Head Custodian at Driftwood Elementary School, Mr. Jimenez consistently fulfills his responsibilities with diligence and attention to detail. His dedication is evident in his daily efforts to enhance the campus environment, ensuring it remains clean, aesthetically pleasing, and well-maintained. He takes pride in supporting both students and staff by assisting with tasks that contribute to an improved school experience. Mr. Jimenez manages the upkeep of gardens and trees and maintains shared spaces, so they are optimal for use by all members of the school community. His ongoing commitment makes Driftwood Elementary a welcoming and productive learning environment, and he is recognized as a valuable member of our team.

Miguel Rodriguez

Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 School

Mr. Miguel is second in command of the custodians. He is very likable and helpful to all staff. Mr. Miguel takes pride in his work and often goes above and beyond to help everyone. Whenever custodian duties fall short of having all his crew at work, he covers their shift and sends a little FYI note to the whole school, letting us know he will still take care of all the classroom. All staff and students look up to him he always wears a smile on his face. It is so comforting to know that we have a custodian who cares for both people and the school environment.



Aaron Wright

Beachside Montessori Village



Aaron Wright, Head Custodian at Beachside Montessori Village, is the heart behind many of our school's most successful environmental and sustainability efforts. Known for his reliability, warmth, and can-do spirit, Mr. Aaron goes above and beyond to support our green initiatives. Whether it's troubleshooting hydroponic systems, setting up and storing equipment for our embryonic studies, or assembling outdoor learning spaces, he tackles every task with care and a smile. He works closely with staff, district personnel, and his custodial team to ensure our outdoor learning labs are safe, functional, and ready for students to engage with nature. His thoughtful attention to detail—like pausing district work to avoid disrupting student garden projects—shows his deep respect for the learning happening all around him. Mr. Aaron's behind-the-scenes dedication makes him an irreplaceable part of our school village and a true steward of our shared commitment to sustainability.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL NOMINEES

Marvia Aitken

The Quest Center

Ms. Aitken serves as an Education Support Professional (ESP) at The Quest Center, where she is deeply committed to supporting the district's most vulnerable students. Each day, she brings patience, compassion, and unwavering dedication to her role, ensuring that every child in her care feels safe, valued, and capable. She approaches her work with a warm smile and a steady presence that provides comfort and stability to students who need it most. Always willing to lend a hand, Ms. Aitken is a dependable and collaborative team member who contributes positively to the entire school community. Her tremendous school spirit and uplifting attitude inspire both colleagues and students alike. With a genuine love of learning and children, she has devoted her life to serving underserved populations, making a meaningful and lasting difference in the lives of the students and families she supports. Ms. Aitken exemplifies the heart of service and the true spirit of The Quest Center.



Aliaksandr Barsukevich

Central Park Elementary



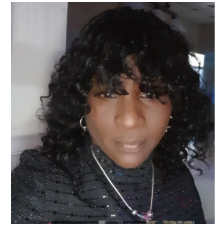
Aliaksandr Barsukevich, Technology Support Specialist II at Central Park Elementary, is a driving force behind the school's sustainability efforts and a strong advocate for developing environmentally responsible students. Through everyday actions and schoolwide initiatives, he promotes awareness and conservation by organizing the recycling of used printer cartridges and encouraging staff and students to unplug unused devices to reduce energy consumption. Beyond these efforts, he actively participates in environmental field trips and supports hands-on learning experiences that help students connect classroom knowledge to real-world environmental issues. His presence and leadership model what it means to be a thoughtful and responsible steward of the environment. Mr. Barsukevich's commitment extends beyond the school day, as

he regularly attends environmental workshops and trainings to stay informed on best practices in sustainability. He brings this knowledge back to campus by supporting teachers in creating meaningful learning opportunities, including facilitating virtual sessions with scientists and environmental experts. He also collaborates on creative sustainability projects, such as repurposing oyster shells into student-made keychains, reinforcing the importance of reuse and resourcefulness. Through his dedication, innovation, and willingness to go above and beyond, Mr. Barsukevich plays a vital role in fostering a culture of environmental stewardship at Central Park Elementary.

Angela Beneby

Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 School

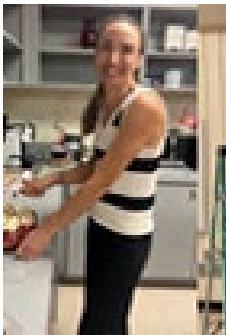
Angela Beneby works as a security guard at Annabel C. Perry PreK-8. Her lifelong passion is working with kids of all ages in addition to doing hands-on projects. She loves hands-on projects such as decorating, making flower bouquets, and party favors. Currently, at her school, she is the coach for cheerleading and track. Her students practice outdoors in open spaces where they can feel close to nature.



Georgia Evaul

Sunrise Middle School

Georgia Evaul is a dedicated parent volunteer and environmental steward whose leadership has transformed learning spaces at Sunrise Middle School. Before her child enrolled, she led restoration of the school garden, mobilizing families and staff to create a safe, hands-on learning environment for students. She co-coordinated a campus beautification day, led a classroom environmental makeover, and brought the garden to life through a student-centered mural project. Georgia expands learning beyond the classroom by coordinating real-world experiences, including student participation in the Great Pollinator Census and a school-based air quality monitoring program. She serves as a PTSA volunteer and Student Advisory Council Business Partner Liaison. A graduate of the Florida Master Naturalist Program and a certified University of Florida Master Gardener, Georgia combines knowledge with action to inspire environmental responsibility in students and the broader school community.



Frank Menschner

Beachside Montessori Village

Frank Menschner is a dedicated garden parent and environmental steward at Beachside Montessori Village, serving a school community of over 800 students, including more than 200 active Garden Club members. He attends every weekly Garden Club meeting and consistently volunteers his time, energy, and expertise to support and sustain the school's environmental initiatives. Grounded in the Montessori philosophy that children learn best through doing, Frank helps cultivate a garden environment that allows for responsible freedom, encouraging students to explore, take ownership, and develop a lasting connection to the natural world. His work ensures that sustainability is not only taught but lived. Frank has been instrumental in designing iguana management systems, assembling recycled benches and tables, and installing a drip irrigation system on a timer. As the sole representative from Beachside at the Youth Climate Summit, he brings valuable insight back to the school community. His commitment extends beyond campus through involvement in green initiatives within his residential community. Frank's reliability, creativity, and dedication inspire students and the broader community to care for the environment.



EDUCATOR NOMINEES

Elementary School Educators

Patricia Frascchetti

Park Springs Elementary School



Ms. Frascchetti is a third-grade teacher and environmental club leader at Park Springs Elementary. One of the projects closest to her heart is the creation of her school garden, a space where students can connect with nature, experience joy in learning, and build confidence. Inspired by her own childhood experience of being named Broward County's Environmental Student of the Year in 2006 as a 5th grader, and encouraged by her teachers, she set out to become an educator who could create more than just an outdoor classroom. It has been a huge honor to now be nominated as an environmental educator. She worked hard to receive grants, donations, and the support of the school community. She helped bring this garden to life as a place that fosters both academic growth and personal development. She also works closely with

students to give them a sense of ownership in the garden, allowing them to take pride in its growth and success. In the garden, students explore science concepts while also learning patience, responsibility, and how to care for the world around them. They engage in hands-on activities such as planting, watering, and observing the life cycles of plants, making learning both interactive and meaningful. For many students, especially those who struggle in traditional classroom settings, the garden is where they truly shine, feeling capable, valued, and excited to learn. It provides a safe and nurturing environment where every child can experience success in their own way. Ultimately, the garden is more than just a project; it reflects the strength of the school community and represents a full-circle journey that continues to inspire both her teaching and her students.

Anicee Lawrie

Riverland Elementary School

As our Science Resource Support teacher, Ms. Lawrie plays a key role in strengthening environmental development across the school. She collaborates with staff and students to plan and model hands-on activities such as recycling routines, garden projects, and campus clean-ups that improve our surroundings and build pride in keeping our school beautiful. Ms. Lawrie also supports teachers with resources, practical strategies, and mini-demonstrations that connect science learning to real-life environmental responsibility. Through her guidance, students grow in their knowledge of sustainability, develop stronger inquiry and teamwork skills, and learn to take leadership in caring for their school and community.



Maritza Morel

Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 School



Maritza Morel is a kindergarten teacher at Annabel C. Perry PK-8 and has been working for the district for twenty-two years. Working with students brings her joy, especially when she sees them enjoying learning. She enjoys teaching students the many ways they can recycle, reuse, or reduce everyday items they use. They have learned how to reuse things. For example, several students drink “Pediasure” in class. So, they now give her the blue caps to save. They know she will be using the caps for math and reading center activities. There are many things in her class where she has reused an item and turned it into something functional for the students to use. Being creative and functional is a way she likes to help the environment.

Nancy Romer

Virginia Shuman Young Elementary School

Nancy Romer is an exceptional educator whose influence extends far beyond the classroom. She not only educates but inspires curiosity, responsibility, and a lasting respect for the environment. Through her dedication to environmental education and hands-on learning, Nancy creates meaningful experiences that students carry with them long after they leave her care. From the science garden she created to the vegetable garden flourishing with herbs and produce, and a classroom designed to immerse learners in ecosystems, every space reflects her commitment to discovery and environmental studies. Her classroom functions as a living ecosystem where students explore habitats, sustainability, and conservation using recycled and repurposed materials. Nancy empowers students to see themselves as environmental stewards, teaching them that small choices matter and that caring for the planet is both meaningful and achievable.



Kristen Scheffer

Sandpiper Elementary School



Kristen Scheffer has a background in Environmental Science and has a Master’s Degree in Aquatic Environmental Science from Florida State University. She is a published scientist that has spent 15 years in field. Some of her time in the field was spent in Alaska investigating bioenergetics, in Arizona monitoring native and endangered fish species, and in Florida studying the degradation of crude oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill. Kristen has always had a passion for teaching, evident in her early years as a tour guide at National Parks across the country, and in her later years as a college professor teaching oceanography. At Sandpiper she is the 5th grade team lead and heads the after school science camp. On a recent class trip to a Youth Climate Summit, her students collected data on recycle bins use to every classroom at Sandpiper. Her students are also researching share tables for the cafeteria, which will reduce food waste. We are so grateful she found the perfect fit at Sandpiper Elementary, teaching science to the most curious audience. Every Ms. Frizzle needs an Ada Twist.

Alina Santiago

Central Park Elementary School

Ms. Santiago's strongest contributions lie in her ability to seamlessly integrate environmental education, inclusion, and real-world application into meaningful learning experiences for all students. As the ESE Support Facilitator for grades 3–5, she plays a pivotal role in implementing the Everglades Literacy curriculum, ensuring that students not only understand environmental concepts but also apply them through hands-on stewardship. Her consistent involvement in the Everglades Student Ambassadors program – where she leads weekly small-group activities such as planting, weeding, and campus clean-ups – demonstrates her commitment to fostering civic responsibility and environmental awareness. She creates authentic opportunities for students to connect classroom learning with real-life action, empowering them to become informed, responsible stewards of their environment.



Middle School Educators

Brandon Bradley

Bair Middle School



Mr. Bradley has been committed to environmental education and sustainability long before becoming a teacher at Bair Middle School, where he has been serving students since 2018. With a passion for hands-on learning and real-world connections, he has worked to bring environmental awareness directly into the classroom. He actively supports student involvement in sustainability by helping lead school garden initiatives and encouraging participation in environmental-focused activities. In his classroom at Bair Middle, Mr. Bradley integrates outdoor learning experiences into his curriculum, using school garden spaces and local ecosystems to reinforce key concepts and standards. His lessons emphasize the importance of conservation, responsible resource use, and protecting wildlife, giving students practical ways to make a positive impact in their own communities.

He regularly collaborates with colleagues to share engaging, environmentally focused lessons across subject areas. Through his efforts, Mr. Bradley has helped create meaningful learning opportunities that connect students to nature, including projects that highlight the journey from garden to table. His work inspires students to see themselves as stewards of the environment, empowering them to take responsibility for protecting the planet and building a more sustainable future.

Venita Everett

Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 School

Ms. Venita Everett has worked at Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 for over 13 years. She has taught 5th grade and all levels in middle school. At her school, she taught 7th Grade Life Science, 7th Grade Civics, 6-8th Reading and 8th Grade U.S. History classes.





Jacqueline Foster
Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 School

Jacqueline Foster is the International Baccalaureate (IB) coordinator at Annabel C. Perry PreK-8. She has worked there for over 16 years. She has taught all grades except 4th grade, including robotics and Aviation classes. She is passionate about hands-on real-life learning, and encourages her students to learn by doing, using real-life example, science inquiry.

Timothy Gore
Silver Lakes Middle School

Timothy Gore embodies a passionate affinity for nature passed down for generations through his family, a family which holds a prominent place in making Florida a premier center for growing orchids. Mr. Gore currently serves as Magnet Coordinator at Silver Lakes Middle School, inspiring STEM education for over 10 years. Under his direction, the STEM Magnet Program has earned national recognition as a 2025 Magnet School of Excellence. This magnet program features innovative programs such as Aerospace/Aviation, Military Leadership, Robotics, Information Technology, Sound Engineering, and Culinary Arts. Mr. Gore is an imaginative leader on the “Green Team” who has spearheaded STEM eco-projects that connect students to nature. His projects include worm composting stations for cafeteria waste, a native Florida plant nursery, installation of native Florida orchids on campus, a solar powered rain barrel irrigation system, and a computer science project to program Micro:bits to measure soil moisture in campus green spaces. He also is the lead organizer for his school’s eco-field trips such as Science Eye Everglades experiences and Sea Camp. Mr. Gore played a key role this year in securing a generous grant from the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club to replenish barren spaces on campus with native Florida specimen gardens for botanical study.



Diane Paillet
Crystal Lake Middle School



Diane Paillet is a grade 6-8 science teacher (including HS Physical Science), Food Forest (garden) Elective teacher, Cross-Country Coach, and Science Department Chair. She has been at Crystal Lake Middle School in Pompano Beach for just shy of 12 years. She also teaches the GEARS1 and GEARS2 accelerated science program in the Pre-Engineering Magnet and focuses her curriculum on project-based learning. She does this while combining her love of nature and the importance of sustainability. Using recycled and reused materials in her classroom are essential components of her projects.

Additionally, she welcomes the SEED Program from Heal the Planet into her classroom weekly to reinforce these topics with her garden students.

Andrea Stallworth-Davis

Margate Middle School

Andrea Stallworth-Davis is a passionate environmental educator and lifelong conservation advocate dedicated to cultivating student curiosity and sustainable ecosystems. She began her teaching career in 2001 and returned to the classroom in 2021 with a renewed commitment to experiential learning. She currently teaches 8th grade Social Studies and 7th/8th grade Environmental Studies at Margate Middle School, where she is leading the development of the school's first Environmental Studies program. With over 20 years of experience as a wildlife rehabilitator specializing in birds, Andrea brings extensive, real-world expertise in habitat enrichment, conservation, and ecological balance into her classroom. Her students engage in hands-on learning through the Everglades Literacy Program and have created a thriving wildflower butterfly garden that supports pollinators and strengthens the school's vegetable and herb garden. Andrea also mentors a graduate student who leads the Environmental Club, fostering student leadership and expanding environmental initiatives across campus. She is currently working to grow the program into a cross-curricular "garden-to-table" partnership with the school's culinary arts program. Through her leadership, the school garden has become a dynamic outdoor classroom where students develop environmental responsibility, practical skills, and a lasting connection to the natural world.



High School Educators

Dr. Jody Berman

South Plantation High School



For nearly 20 years, Dr. Jody Berman has been a member of the Environmental Science and Everglades Restoration Magnet program at South Plantation High School. Her teaching philosophy focuses on the intersection of natural sciences and human society, aiming to foster deep awareness of local environmental issues while empowering students to become part of the solution(s). Throughout her tenure, Dr. Berman has developed unique curricula across all grade levels, most notably reimagining the Magnet Senior course. This program now bridges the gap between academic research and real-world impact by integrating scientific writing with service-learning activities such as school-wide recycling and sustainable landscaping. In addition, students in the class are a part of the Everglades Foundation's Champions in Action program to identify local environmental issues and advocate for changes in local environmental policies or practices. Outside of the classroom, Dr. Berman co-sponsors the Everglades Restoration Ambassadors club, leading community outreach events, and mentoring students in securing various environmental grants. By blending rigorous instruction with outdoor field experiences and community partnership, Dr. Berman provides students with the foundational skills and confidence to become the next generation of environmental leaders.

Dr. Shonni-Leigh Westcarth

Miramar High School



Dr. Shonni-Leigh Westcarth, M.Ed., EdD is a dedicated educator, instructional leader, and environmental advocate who teaches Physics and Environmental Science at Miramar High School in Broward County Public Schools for 11 years. With a strong background in STEM education and a passion for experiential learning, he consistently creates meaningful opportunities for students to connect classroom instruction to real-world applications. Currently serving as Science Department Head, Dr. Westcarth plays a critical role in strengthening science instruction campus-wide. He facilitates teacher collaboration, supports instructional alignment, and promotes student success across disciplines. Midway through the school year, Dr. Westcarth stepped into the role of Environmental Club sponsor following the unexpected loss of the previous advisor. He revitalized the program by leading students in restoring and maintaining the school's butterfly garden and food forest, working alongside them to remove invasive species and restore native plants. His hands-on leadership fostered environmental stewardship, sustainability, and shared responsibility.

Meet your Environmental Specialists Duo

Victor Suarez

NatureScape Broward Education Specialist
Public Works and Environmental Services Dept.
Broward County Natural Resources Division
vsuarez@broward.org

and

Cynthia "Cindy" Griffin

Environmental Instructional Specialist
STEM + Computer Science
Applied Learning Dept.
Cindy.griffin@browardschools.com



SCHOOL NOMINEES

Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 School – All Categories



Annabel C. Perry PreK-8 is located in historic Miramar. The school is in an Innovative zone as determined by Broward County Public Schools district. The goal of being an innovative school is to retain our boundary students. During the 2020-2021 school year, the elementary school earned the distinction of International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. As an IB World school, students visit six transdisciplinary theme studies in the elementary grades. These themes are Who We Are, Where We are in Time and Place, How We Organize Ourselves, How We Express Ourselves, How the World Works and Sharing the Planet. Middle School is an IB candidate school and is working toward authorization during the 2026-2027 school year. In middle school, students study six Global Context: Identities and Relationships, Orientation in Space and Time, Personal and Cultural Expressions, Scientific and Technical Innovation, Globalization and Sustainability, and Fairness and Development.



Beachside Montessori Village – All Categories

Beachside Montessori Village is Broward County's only public PreK-8 Montessori magnet school, recognized as a Magnet Schools of America School of Excellence, a U.S. Department of Education School of Excellence, and a Green Ribbon School. Rooted in Montessori principles of independence, responsibility, and respect for the environment, Beachside has intentionally transformed its campus into a living laboratory where sustainability is embedded into daily instruction, campus operations, and community partnerships. Over the past three years, the school has strategically invested in sustainability-focused infrastructure, including the development of six Outdoor Learning Environments funded through magnet capital allocations. With over 200 students participating in Garden Club and



weekly environmental engagement, Beachside integrates environmental literacy across all grade levels through interdisciplinary units such as Seed to Table and The Cost of Convenience. The campus is a certified wildlife habitat and NatureScape Emerald Award recipient, reflecting its commitment to native landscaping, water conservation, and habitat restoration. Students actively participate in sustainability initiatives ranging from recycling systems and composting to climate education partnerships and immersive field studies. Beachside's model extends beyond its campus through professional presentations, community partnerships, and student-led advocacy, positioning the school as a leader in sustainability-focused Montessori education.



Central Park Elementary School – Category 5

Central Park Elementary stands as a model of environmental excellence, where sustainability is deeply embedded in the school's culture, curriculum, and daily practices. As an Everglades Champion School – Gold Level—the only public elementary school in Broward County with this distinction—as well as a Green Apple School and the first Guy Harvey Foundation School in Broward County, the school demonstrates a clear and sustained commitment to environmental stewardship. Students actively engage in hands-on learning through initiatives such as Everglades Literacy, citizen science projects, campus gardens, composting systems, and aquaponics, while programs like the Everglades Student Ambassadors empower nearly 100 students to lead schoolwide efforts and share sustainability messages through weekly announcements. Administrative leadership plays a vital role by supporting innovative instruction, encouraging participation in programs such as Distance Learning DBQ, and fostering strong partnerships with organizations including SEFS, the Rotary Club, and Friends of the Everglades.



Coconut Creek High School – All Categories



Coconut Creek High School has a budding science program that concluded a four-year garden plan executed by the Creek Science Club which ended with our school becoming a designated food forest. We competed in the SER Envirothon for the second year in a row as well as took a field trip to Everglades National Park for the first time. The initiatives of the science club are supported by the AICE Marine Science and Environmental Management curriculums. The school's mission is to prepare scholars for the real world, and our science program does just that by introducing scholars to urban agriculture methods and native wildlife while also maintaining high academic standards. Coconut Creek High School offers a multi-track Cambridge program that can result in a full Bright Futures scholarship, an ever-expanding technical magnet program in partnership with Atlantic Technical College, and dual enrollment opportunities to ensure college and career readiness. Cougar staff and scholars also take pride in maintaining our school. This year we hosted our first annual School Beautification Day where staff, scholars, alumni, and community members came together to clean and beautify the school grounds.



Coconut Creek K-8 School – All Categories



Coconut Creek K-8 Academy of Excellence is dedicated to environmental stewardship through hands-on learning, sustainability initiatives, and strong community partnerships. Students participate in meaningful environmental education through science and Eco-Science programs, including edible and hydroponic gardens, student-led recycling efforts through the Eco-Rangers Club, and

projects focused on climate awareness. Partnerships with organizations such as Sprouts and participation in events like the Broward Climate Summit connect classroom learning to real-world environmental action. With strong administrative support, our school fosters a culture that empowers students to become responsible environmental leaders.



Floranada Elementary School – Categories 1 and 3



Floranada's outdoor area is maintained by the students. They are growing various flowers for pollinators, milkweed for the Monarch migration, and various vegetables (mini sweet peppers, different types of onions, and lima beans and a pineapple plant). Students of various grade levels study the plants outside for plant parts, life cycles, and native animal visitors. The Girls Who Code club used their 3D printer for signs in the outdoor learning space. The Earth Day everyday club built a bench for the school using reclaimed wood. They worked with Art Lab Science on various ecofriendly projects and the

bench. We are continuing the project next school year to expand the bench and garden area. The NWF habitat area has maintained its natural space for our resident birds and migrating birds as well. The Bird Club has participated in citizen science by documenting their sightings by using the ebird app, merlin app for identification, and by submitting data to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



Hallandale High School – Categories 1, 3 and 5



Over the past four years, Hallandale Magnet High School students have developed a thriving edible garden featuring vegetables, fruits, and medicinal flowers grown with organic permaculture practices and native plants that attract butterflies. The garden program engages students in hands-on scientific inquiry— research, observation, and experimentation— while deepening their understanding of sustainable food production, nutrition, health, and environmental awareness. Students link science and nutrition to real-life applications by harvesting and preparing healthy snacks and meals with garden produce. They practice companion planting, natural repellents, and netting, exploring

how plants support one another within ecosystems. Beyond academics, the program fosters physical activity, teamwork, respect for nature, and sustainability. The H.M.H.S. Butterfly Sanctuary and Community Food Forest gardens was awarded the 2026 Broward County NatureScape Emerald award for making Broward County a better place for people, plants and wildlife. The plaque award ceremony commenced during the NatureScape Broward Water Matters Day event.



Margate Middle School – Categories 1 and 3



At Margate Middle School, we have established a growing Outdoor Learning Lab that supports standards-aligned, hands-on instruction across grades 7–8 and multiple subject areas. Our campus includes a functional produce and herb garden and a pollinator-focused wildflower butterfly habitat, both of which are used regularly for structured learning activities. More than 100 students participate annually in weekly outdoor lessons that reinforce environmental science concepts, sustainability practices, and real-world problem solving. Our school is

actively enhancing its Outdoor Learning Lab through infrastructure improvements such as rain barrels, irrigation systems, and seating to increase sustainability and instructional use. Students also contribute to the design and expansion of a designated growing area, increasing both yield and learning capacity. Margate Middle School is transforming its campus into a comprehensive, student-centered model of environmental education through the integration of outdoor learning, interdisciplinary instruction, and habitat restoration. Serving over 120 students annually, the school has developed a dynamic Outdoor Learning Garden Lab that supports standards-aligned, hands-on instruction across grades 7–8 and multiple subject areas.



Miramar High School – Category 3



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. 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 established MHS a Green Flag School. The Environmental Club, along with the ESE department, implemented a Recycling Program. Last year, the club created a aquaponic system in the classroom and shared what they learned with the public at Water Matters Day. They also won Honorable Mention for the Emerald Award by adding more native plants to our butterfly garden and food forest. The

school applied for a grant to further educate our students on agriculture, pollinators, 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. We are one of the schools in Broward County accepted into the Tea Garden Program, where students will learn how to sustainably grow edible food together in their neighborhood. In the summer of 2025, the club finish building a greenhouse adjacent to the outdoor classroom.



New River Middle School – All Categories



New River Middle School is deeply committed to sustainability through its Marine Science and iCAN (Integrated Career and Academic Networks) Magnet Programs. Environmental stewardship is embedded across the curriculum, with marine science courses that examine South Florida's local ecosystems, estuarine environments, and ocean conservation. Students engage in meaningful, hands-on learning experiences, including field investigations and visits to nearby coastal and freshwater habitats, allowing them to explore marine biodiversity, resource management, and the human impact on natural systems. Beyond the classroom, New River Middle School

fosters environmental leadership through the Eco-Sharks Environmental Club, where students take an active role in promoting sustainable practices such as recycling initiatives, tree planting, and campus clean-up efforts. The school also participates in district-wide sustainability initiatives, including the Youth Climate Summit, the P3 Eco Challenge, Water Matters Day and Water Ways Cleanup which supports the development of green spaces and hands-on gardening projects that connect students to food systems and environmental responsibility. A cornerstone of the school's sustainability efforts is the annual Mission Possible Project-Based Learning (PBL) Showcase, a community-centered event where students and teachers present environmentally focused projects that address real-world challenges. This interdisciplinary initiative brings together core academic subjects and iCAN electives, encouraging collaboration and innovation around topics such as energy efficiency, environmental design, conservation solutions, and public awareness campaigns.



Nob Hill Elementary School – Category 1

Nob Hill Elementary is making meaningful strides to teach students about the natural world while beautifying its campus. Although we are a smaller school serving approximately 520 students, we think big when it comes to environmental education. Our campus features several butterfly, vegetable, and flower gardens that students actively help maintain. These planting areas serve as living observation gardens, providing opportunities for wildlife to thrive and giving students a firsthand way to see science in action. Students also participate in authentic citizen science projects on campus. Through the Global Tree Project, they measure and monitor trees, and with the Great Sunflower Project, they observe and record data on pollinators. These experiences allow students to contribute to real scientific research while developing a deeper understanding of ecosystems and environmental stewardship.



Park Springs Elementary School – All Categories



Park Springs Elementary Environmental Club continues to grow and explore new initiatives. The PSE Environmental Club is made up of a diverse group of fourth and fifth grade students, including the most students in our Environmental Club history from our on-campus special programs! This year our students were most excited to learn about the environment, how they can make a difference and sharing their knowledge with others. They have participated in multiple beautifications and clean up projects on and off campus while also making time to educate their school community.

Riverland Elementary School – All Categories

Riverland Elementary School is a campus full of energy, pride, and a growing commitment to environmental stewardship. Surrounded by opportunities for hands-on learning, Riverland is quickly becoming a hub where students connect with nature while building a strong sense of responsibility for their environment. The school is dedicated to fostering a culture of sustainability, where students are not only learners, but active changemakers. Riverland Elementary is building momentum through innovative, interdisciplinary learning experiences that bring environmental education to life. Through engaging science initiatives, garden-based learning, and schoolwide projects, students explore ecosystems, conservation, and sustainability in meaningful and exciting ways. These experiences spark curiosity and empower students to take ownership of their learning while developing a deep appreciation for the natural world around them. Students actively participate in planting, maintaining, and nurturing garden spaces that serve as outdoor classrooms. These daily, hands-on activities inspire teamwork, responsibility, and pride, while reinforcing key science concepts. With excitement and enthusiasm, students are learning what it means to care for living things and make environmentally conscious choices. Riverland's student leaders are helping drive this work forward by promoting sustainable practices across campus. From encouraging conservation



efforts to educating peers on the importance of protecting natural resources, students are taking the lead and building a culture of awareness and action. Their passion is contagious, creating a ripple effect throughout the school community. The school continues to strengthen connections with families and community partners who share the vision of creating a greener future. Through collaborative events and initiatives, Riverland brings together students, staff, and community members to support environmental efforts and enhance the school campus. These partnerships are helping to expand opportunities for students while building a stronger, more connected community.

Sandpiper Elementary School – Category 1



Sandpiper Elementary School started off with a thought and a small garden that has now expanded to include multiple gardens in our courtyards. Our school gardens serve as a dynamic learning space that integrates with various aspects of our curriculum. Students use the gardens for hands-on activities, such as studying plant parts, which connect directly to their science lessons. The garden also supports research into ecological history as part of the Cambridge curriculum. Teachers from various grades utilize the different spaces for student observations, allowing for interdisciplinary learning experiences. Daily maintenance of the garden is a responsibility shared by the students, who weed, water, and harvest fruits and vegetables. In addition, the ‘Men of Tomorrow’ club helps with regular clean-up efforts, ensuring the gardens remain well-kept. During school breaks, enhancements and maintenance are carried out to keep the garden thriving, by the teachers. Efforts have



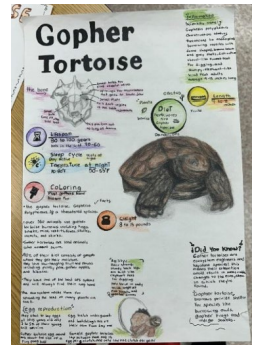
been made to restore native plants while removing invasive species, contributing to a more sustainable environment. The gardens play a key role in expanding schoolyard habitats, with students actively involved in designing and developing these spaces. Notably, sensory gardens and pollination gardens are being created to maximize learning opportunities. Our garden has achieved certification as Broward County NatureScape, highlighting our commitment to fostering an eco-friendly and educational environment for our students. We also work with various groups, such as the Florida Farm Bureau and Florida Agriculture to obtain grant funding, ensuring that the garden continues to thrive. In collaboration with the BCPS and Broward County staff, who have also helped the students learn about native plants and the importance of pollinators. Parents have generously donated plants and materials, further strengthening our community’s involvement. Additionally, the City of Sunrise is an active partner, supporting our efforts to create a green, sustainable space for learning.



Sawgrass Springs Middle School – Category 3



Sawgrass Springs Middle School is located in the northwest corner of Broward County. As we like to say “on the edge of the Everglades, the center of our environment”. The environmental innovative program at Sawgrass Springs Middle serves to create a generation of environmental stewards. Weaving environmental science through the curriculum allows students to re-engage with school in a hands-on, project-based learning format. We strive to help students to see that they are the changemakers for environmental action. Through our outdoor green spaces and our



environmental science classes, students learn about a variety of topics. Students are the key to keeping our green spaces green and educating other students about environmental topics. Our Gopher Tortoise Preserve, Butterfly Garden and Garden Center provide foundational spaces for students to learn first-hand about topics such as native plants, sustainability, keystone species and farm to table gardening.

Silver Lakes Middle School – Category 1

The prominent green spaces at Silver Lakes Middle School serve as beautiful centers of learning for students to connect with nature. These nature learning centers have required a consistent and collective effort of students, teachers, administration, community resources and partnerships spanning over 5 years to transform what was once a barren campus. Our interdisciplinary Green Team has representatives across the spectrum to include Magnet, Science, Math, Music, SVE, Non-Instructional and Aftercare teachers who devote themselves to providing students with a variety of innovative eco-learning experiences each year. STEM service-learning projects for campus beautification over the years have included



Applied Geometry in the Garden, Butterfly Garden installation, Bird Houses and Bird Feeders project, Native Florida Plant Nursery, Worm Composting Stations for cafeteria waste, Contee Seed experiments, Self-Watering Buckets for Milkweed, Stem Cutting propagation experiments, Plant Propagation through fragmentation, Native Florida Orchid conservation, Invasive plant removal, Monarch Butterfly Life Cycle observations, Swallowtail Butterfly Life cycle observations, Hydroponic Tower gardens, Concerts in the Garden, and our recent Solar Powered Rain Barrel irrigation system. The school's eco partners and grant sponsors over years include NatureScape, OIC Aftercare, Crockett Foundation Aftercare, AKA Sorority, the Broward Education Foundation and the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club. Silver Lakes Middle School is proud to be a certified NatureScape Property, National

Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat, and is a part of the Broward Habitat Connectivity project.

Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8 – Categories 3 and 5



Silver Shores STEAM Academy K-8 (SSSA K-8) exemplifies excellence in environmental education through curriculum integration, rigorous academic alignment, and authentic, student-centered learning experiences. Environmental concepts are embedded across grade levels and content areas, ensuring that students build a deep understanding of real-world environmental challenges. Our SSSA K-8 students explore critical topics such as sustainability, waste management, and air quality. These concepts are not only taught, but actively applied, allowing students to analyze human impact on Earth's systems and evaluate solutions that promote environmental stewardship. We incorporated programs such as Guardians of the Glades and YACR to further provide intentional integration of environmental understanding.

Virginia Shuman Young Elementary School – Categories 1, 2 and 3

Virginia Shuman Young Montessori School (VSY) is a Broward County magnet school deeply committed to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and hands-on learning. Through its thriving Science and Pollinator Gardens, Peace Garden, and outdoor learning spaces, VSY integrates environmental education into daily instruction across grade levels. Students actively engage in habitat restoration, native planting, water and energy conservation, waste reduction, and composting practices, making sustainability a lived



experience rather than a concept. As an Everglades Champion School, VSY connects local ecosystems to interdisciplinary curriculum, empowering students to understand their impact on the environment and advocate for positive change. With strong administrative support, dedicated student leadership, and meaningful community partnerships, VSY exemplifies how environmental responsibility, Montessori values, and academic learning come together to preserve our planet for prosperity.



The Broward P3 Eco-Challenge initiative is a multi-divisional and organizational effort among the Applied Learning Department of the Office of Academics, Environmental Health & Safety Department, and its partners, the Broward County Natural Resources Division, and the Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO).



browardschools.com/p3

broward.org/NaturalResources

eco-tan.org/