



## School Nominee Presentation Form

### ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

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#### School and District's Certifications

The signatures of the school principal and district superintendent (or equivalents) on the next page certify that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. *In no case is a private school required to make any certification with regard to the public school district in which it is located.*

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades early learning to 12.
2. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. Neither the nominated public school nor its public school district is refusing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is not subject to the jurisdiction of OCR. The nominated DoDEA schools, however, are subject to and in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements to comply with Federal civil rights laws.
4. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
5. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
6. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the public school or public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
7. The school meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.
8. The school or its district has in place and is willing to provide a link to or a copy of a non-discrimination policy, upon request. The U.S. Department of Education reserves the right to disqualify a nomination and/or rescind an award if unlawful discrimination is later discovered.

### U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

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Name of Principal:


(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official School Name:

(As it should appear on an award)

*\*Private Schools: If the information requested is not applicable, write N/A in the space*

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal's Signature)

Date:

Name of Superintendent:

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in official records)



District Name:

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

**Maria F Vazquez** Digitally signed by Maria F Vazquez  
Date: 2024.01.11 14:49:09 -05'00' Date:

(Superintendent's Signature)

### Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades Pre-K-12.
2. The school is one of those overseen by the Nominating Authority which is highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. The school meets all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency:

Name of Nominating Authority:

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

**Don Whitehead** Digitally signed by Don Whitehead  
Date: 2024.01.19 10:44:09 -05'00' Date:

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

## SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: December 31, 2023

### Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.



## 2023-2024 Florida Green Ribbon Schools Application

### Nominee Information

School Name: Sally Ride Elementary School

Address: 9601 11th Ave      City: Orlando      State: FL      Zip: 32824  
Twitter: SallyRideES\_OCPS      Facebook: Sally Ride Elementary School-OCPS

Principal: Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): Mr.      First Name: Kahlil      Last Name: Ortiz  
Email: [Kahlil.ortiz@ocps.net](mailto:Kahlil.ortiz@ocps.net)      Phone: 407-858-3100

Lead Applicant (if different) Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): Ms.      First Name: Amy      Last Name: Shova  
Position/Role (Teacher/ Sustainability Director/ Facilities Director/Parent): District Sustainability Coordinator  
Email: Amy.Shova@ocps.net      Phone: 407-317-3900, ext. 2027685

### School Type and grade levels served:

Public School, K-5

### Provide percentages, if any are relevant to your school:

Free and Reduced Price Lunch: 100%	Special Education: 19%
Minority: 35%	Graduation Rate: N/A
Limited English Proficient: 25%	Attendance Rate: 91%

### Provide the following:

Total Enrolled: 399 students as of 11/27/2023



## **Summary Narrative: An Overview of Work Encompassing All Three Pillars**

Sally Ride Elementary, home of the Explorers, is a Title I public school that proudly hosts an Aviation and Aerospace Magnet program. Our school name was proposed by a third-grader in honor of the first American woman in space Dr. Sally Ride. Established in August 2018, and already nominated as the 2022-2023 Orange County Public School District Green School of Excellence as a first-time applicant. In addition, Sally Ride Elementary has received other awards related to our green philosophy such as School-Wide Culture in Sustainability, Water Conservation, Energy Conservation, The Top Recycler in the Southeast Learning Community, and Green Apple School Designation by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Sally Ride Elementary School is a Title 1 elementary school that has found excitement, inclusion, resources and community through their green school initiatives. Through amazing community support and partnerships, we're honored to be recognized as the "Top Green School" within Orange County Public Schools' Green Schools Recognition Program.

When the students, parents, and staff created Sally Ride Elementary's Green Team we realized that the school-wide consciousness of carbon footprint reduction was already in practice. The environmental respect was constantly demonstrated by the Sally Ride Elementary Explorers, by poems, or two times selected by the Orlando Utilities Commission for our student's artwork to be added to their calendar, among many other samples. We were producing paper out of recycled paper and collecting rainwater using barrels. Many other projects were systematically included in our academic and extra-academic programs such as the development of solar ovens, sundial, model solar cars, and other solar equipment. We have been raising vegetables without pesticides with the garden club for many years. At Sally Ride, Explorers participate in Summer Camps with environmental education programs. The unclaimed lost and found items have been always donated to local charities. Offer-versus-serve concept is used in meal service to reduce waste. Organic food waste is composted onsite. Eighteen (18) Hydroponic towers have been installed in some classrooms and common areas. The outside hydroponics, Red Wigglers farm, pollinator garden, water-bottle refill stations, and drip irrigation systems have grown and improved with time.

The success of Sally Ride Elementary School's sustainability program has been achieved thanks to passionate students, staff members, and parents whose mission is to develop skills such as critical thinking, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving, which are essential to face the environmental challenges of this century. During Sally Ride Elementary School's journey to become a green school, strong friendships were made. Even though the school is not located in the City of Orlando's perimeter, the City's sustainable team put borders aside and introduced students to the concept of compost and vermiculture. A grandmother, beekeeper, and nature lover, shared her love for bees by donating plants, infinite support, and providing workshops on Introduction to Apiary to students. 4Roots is an organization that brought our students to the next level in composting with fun activities. The Family Nutrition Program from the University of Florida Orlando extension focused on teaching plants and recognizing beneficial and harmful insects in gardens. Parents donated money, soil, garden beds, and their time helping with activities. Orange County Public Schools and O-Town Composting included Sally Ride Elementary



in their organic waste collection pilot and mentored the school's compost. We treasure these partnerships and look forward to incorporating new partners this year.

At Sally Ride Elementary School, students, community, and staff work together in many ways to improve our environment, reduce our impact on the surrounding community, and enrich the lives of all through growing a sustainable, school-wide culture. Our students have the passion and drive our projects. They create the newsletters, awareness posters, and monitor progress. It is a priority to educate our community on sustainable goals through signs and videos throughout the school. Our students make their own paper every year with water sources from our rain barrels, they use this paper to put sustainable reminders like "Every Drop Counts" or "Turn Off the Lights" throughout the school. We limit our use on nearly everything and find ways to reduce, reuse, recycle through our district upcycling initiatives as well as community partners like A Gift for Teaching which helps to fulfill school needs while promoting upcycling.

To us sustainability is very important and is integrated into all operations and programs to conserve valuable resources and costs. Our School Principal in liaison with the green team, created the Sally Ride Elementary Environmental Policy posted all around school. He also declared October 3rd as our own Green Day where activities related to environment and sustainability will be held throughout the day.

Not only do we have energy-efficient light fixtures and low-flow water fixtures throughout the school, but we have signs and students monitor the use of energy and water using a weekly audit, to ensure that we are not only efficient but also using only what we need. If there are any mechanical issues that cause the misuse of energy and water, SRE staff send a work order to the District Maintenance Department for prompt repair. Water bottle refill stations and promoting the use of reusable water bottles are encouraged through the daily announcements, and by classroom teachers to reduce contribution to the landfill. To redirect food, and carton waste we have backyard composting, and the composted soil is used in our garden, single stream recycling. A large percentage of our students walk and bike to the school reducing our greenhouse emission footprint. Furniture that is no longer needed is sent to the District's storage warehouse to be used by other schools. Recycle papers are converted into notepads or scrap papers. Printers are set by default for back-to-back printing only.

Our garden includes 4 vegetable beds, 2 native plants beds, 1 Sunflowers bed, 1 herbs bed, 95 flower beds, 8 vertical hydroponics, an insect hotel, composting area, and a butterfly farm. These areas foster learning about vegetables, flowers, pollinators, worms to make nutrient-rich compost, insects as natural pesticides, butterflies, etc. Our school made a large sundial that is incredibly accurate. Our students learn how to properly read a sundial and they build models on paper. We keep outdoor areas clean and useful and spend time outside working and learning about the natural world.

At Sally Ride the students are the protagonists of many projects and becoming a green school is not an exception. They lead different green campaigns and teach other students, staff, and members of the community. The students designed and drew the Logo that identifies our commitment to be a model of green school for many generations. Students host the morning news and communicate all the green initiatives that have taken place this year at SRE. They are an essential part of our school Green Team. They help other students when they participate in workshops



where they learn about bees, composting, or Native plants from Florida. Students and staff have learned a lot about green solutions to real-world problems that affect our environment. Teachers have worked with the students in learning projects about thermal energy, the water cycle, and green planet. Many parents have donated money, soil, plants, garden beds, and their time to help us with our green projects. Our principal and the whole school staff are very involved.

Through education, we intend to build sustainable minds by providing a safe place to create and experiment, which will inspire our Explorers to influence the world around them. Solar ovens, sundials, paper making, and germination, are all part of our curriculum. We host Green Career Day where professionals with green degrees tell about themselves and their education and current position. We are already working on our Spring Plant Sale from our own germination system.

We understand that the health and wellness of our Explorers and staff is crucial for the execution of our green initiatives. The District's multiple departments and utility companies work together to ensure the school has good indoor air quality and that it is free of contaminants and pests. Our students stay healthy and fit through PE classes, fitness events like field day, and after-school programs. The emotional and social wellness is addressed by our social-emotional learning school Counselor and Psychologist. Students also get to connect with nature in a stress-free environment while spending time planting, maintaining, harvesting, and eating healthy fresh food produced from our gardens and hydroponics. This is often incorporated with nutrition lessons from our friends at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS).

Sally Ride has been working to become a green school for several years. Thinking green requires time and effort from the entire school community. Today, our students, staff, and community work together to make SRE a great example of Green school not only for our neighborhood but for any other school that wants to follow in our footsteps. That is why we use the media and any type of communication tool to show our success and learning. Class Dojo, emails, School Facebook pages, Principal and School Twitters, newsletters, running presentations in the front office's monitors, half-page flyers, posters, and led signs, are samples of the tools used to inform people about our green plans and actions. Students are the true leaders in this process. They learn and teach others about the environment. They develop the campaigns and are in charge of them. We have the invaluable support of the community and our administration who is always involved in all the green initiatives of the Sally Ride Elementary School.

The huge contribution of the staff, parents, and the Sally Ride Elementary friendships cultivated during the journey of becoming a green school, helped to accomplish a long-time green dream. The marvelous curiosity of our Explorers will take us to new environmental practices that will help save the planet. This is only the beginning.



## **Narrative for Pillar I: Efforts to Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs**

Reducing our environmental impact is part of our mission at Sally Ride Elementary School. We actively educate and learn about ways to limit our use, recycle, and leave the world a better place. Our students actively collect litter throughout and around the campus. They post signs encouraging less use of our energy as well as only taking the amount of water you need while doing things and filling water bottles. We have many forms of recycling at our school including plastics, cardboard, and paper among others. We use refillable bottles and go paperless as much as possible to avoid using them needlessly.

Our school garden grew more than double in size and the variety of crops and plants in general this year. Students play the most important role in every improvement. They helped reduce our impact on the landfills by rebuilding, fixing items, and reusing materials. They fixed the rainwater barrels, redesigned the sundial, planted the much bigger butterfly garden, and the hydroponics. They also decorated and set up the birdhouses and fountain. They decorated and set up the Bug' hotel and put together two new compost containers donated by parents that limit our solid waste. Students also labeled the native plants' garden beds. They set up the giant chess by the school sundial. The students designed and put together the multiple pieces of the irrigation system in the outside garden and they take care of the 18 hydroponics inside the school's buildings.

Our students love the Share Table in the cafeteria. When they eat in the classrooms they have a designated area to put the unwanted food to share with others. Other students now have the chance to grab extra food if they want to. There are very few to no leftovers from the Share Table which means that we are not wasting food! The remainder is donated to a community church "All Saint Lutheran Church" to share with people in need. Sally Ride has been selected to participate in the District School compost and food collection Pilot program and is currently in the first year of the two-year pilot program! This is another way we are focusing on diverting food from the landfills. SRE students decorated every recycle bin around the school as part of an Art project to make them easier to identify and more attractive to use. Our students learned how to dehydrate fruits and vegetables to make them last longer in good condition. They also learned that this is a great solution to eliminate the weight of the transported cargo, which reduces the number of trucks needed to move the same number of products.

Sally Ride school's Green program includes:

- District monitors energy usage through Energy CAP and addresses suspicious spikes in consumption.



- LED lights are used in some areas and there are motion sensors everywhere to initiate unnecessary ON-lights in the building.
- ENERGY STAR rated equipment including printers and smartboards.
- Walk or Bike to school day.
- The district monitors water consumption through Energy CAP and addresses suspicious spikes.
- Low-flow toilets and auto-shut-off faucets in restrooms.
- Water assessment conducted by the District.
- Garbage bins are located in every classroom and office. The Custodial Crew picks up garbage bin contents regularly and empties them into the garbage dumpster. Our dumpsters have 2 garbage pickups per week by Waste Management.
- Hazardous waste is collected separately and picked up by the District's Environmental Compliance Department, which then properly recycles or disposes of those items through respective vendors.
- Water bottle refill stations to encourage the use of reusable water bottles as opposed to single-use bottles.
- Clothing and shoes donation drive in the parking lot.
- Recycling posters in classrooms and common areas.

## **Narrative for Pillar II: Efforts to Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff**

Students' physical and mental health is a priority at SRE. The initiatives go from teaching them what to eat through different nutrition programs to harvesting their vegetables. Students have learned about pollinators, bad and good bugs, composting, and gardening. Every Friday students take home healthy food donated by the Blessing in the Backpack program to make sure that they can eat during the weekends. Fridays are also the day that we demonstrate unity to accomplish all our goals at Sally Ride. Students and staff, we all proudly wear the resilient shirt that day. Students participate in several initiatives that require physical fitness such as School Dance, Theater Club, Garden Club, Field Day, Dance Club, etc. Students have access to school counselors and social-emotional programs that help and promote not only their well-being but also of staff, and the community. At school, we also celebrate Walk/Bike to School Day and Earth's Day. Fundraisers at Sally Ride are always healthy initiatives. Small-scale Gardens are developed in different classes where students plant potatoes in bags, germinate seeds, or work on their classroom's garden tower.

Sally Ride school's Green program includes District-wide initiatives, such as:

- [Asbestos free](#) (inspected by contractor July 2013).
- MERV 13 air filter replaced every 90 days.





- Bipolar ionization system that reduces the entry of outside allergens
- Facilities Department adheres to a [Maintenance and Repairs policy](#) to properly maintain facilities to fulfill the life cycle intended including the HVAC system.
- The Custodial Department follows the Custodial Job Procedure Frequency and Work Plan that involves information for the following areas of the school: garbage and recycling collection and removal; ceilings and ventilation vents; walls, windows, doors and lockers; classroom cleaning; restroom cleaning; floor care and maintenance; drinking fountains; clinic, showers, and locker rooms; administrative office, lobbies, and entrances; stairways; patio areas; cafeteria and dining areas; media center, gym, and auditorium; and custodial closets/storage.
- Properly label and store all chemicals.
- No visible mold or mildew, and if an issue were to arise, the Environmental Compliance Department would work with other Departments and vendors to resolve the issue promptly.
- 100% smoke-free.
- School medical emergency plan includes information about asthma/allergies, and staff are provided information on what to do in those emergencies.
- Occupied hours temperature ranges between 68 and 72 degrees in heating mode, and 74 and 77 in cooling mode. Unoccupied hours temperature is 50 degrees for heating and 85 for cooling.
- Waste Management makes biweekly pickups at Sally Ride Elementary School.
- Maintenance Department follows the Integrated Pest Management Protocol to protect human health by suppressing pests that vector diseases, to reduce losses from pest damage, to reduce environmental pollution, to reduce human exposure to pesticides, particularly that of children, and to reduce the costs of pest control.
- Taft Water Association provides and monitors water quality for Sally Ride Elementary School. Florida participates in SWAPP stands for Source Water Assessment and Protection Program. This program is meant to ensure that your drinking water is safe, not just at the tap, but at its source. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is initiating the SWAPP as part of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).
- The Food and Nutrition Services Department follows USDA guidelines for nutrition in the cafeteria and follows strict sanitation rules to meet health inspection requirements.
- Our PE Department not only meets the District, State, and Federal requirements for PE minutes and activities, but we also go above and beyond by having activities such as Field Day, karate PE, and Mission Fit lessons for certain grade levels.
- The goal of the Orange County Public Schools Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is to protect human health by suppressing pests that cause vector diseases, to reduce losses from pest damage, reduce environmental pollution, reduce human exposure to pesticides, particularly that of children, and to reduce costs of pest control. In IPM programs, treatments are not made according to a fixed schedule; they are made only when and where monitoring and preventive maintenance visits have indicated that the pest will cause unacceptable economic, aesthetic, or medical injury or damage.
- District has 2030 health and wellness goals for outdoor activities, school gardens, healthy meal options, and limiting IAQ concerns.
- District staff training provided by Federal Grant (Energy CLASS prize) on energy and indoor air quality.
- Recognition from the US Dept of Energy for Notable Achievement in Energy Efficiency Plus Health 2023.



- Recognition from the US Dept of Energy for Strategic Planning in the Efficient & Healthy Schools 2023 cohort.
- Exhibits high standards of the [Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model](#) through the School Health and Wellness Advisory Committee, which provides feedback and reviews the local health services plan, and supports school wellness programs. It is composed of parents, school, health, and community leaders such as the FL Department of Health in Orange County.

### **Narrative for Pillar III: Efforts to Ensure Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education**

The teachers work together to give SRE students an education that could cover the needs of future generations. Our students learn at school all subjects' standards combined with their real-life applications for a better understanding. Teachers plan by grade level every week and include several hands-on activities that give students opportunities to think and design solutions about the environment, sustainability, and green energy mixed with important skills for their present and future lives. Students carry out investigations and projects about the environment. They shared their projects with other students from different classes and grades using PowerPoint or videos. Green energy and environmental respect were included in the reading, Math, and Science lessons. We also had several speakers and workshops for our students to learn more about the impact of different factors in our surroundings and how to solve problems in a “green” manner as 40% of food we buy goes to the land as trash.

Students participate in different labs/workshops about green energy. Solar energy is studied in class, in the STEM lab, and the STEM and Solar clubs. Solar Ovens, Solar Cars, Sundials, and Eco City, Solar Heater, among other challenges related to green energy, are part of the school program. These workshops are dictated for parents, students, and staff by students from the solar club. Students have recorded several short educational videos about these topics. The videos are shared in ClassDojo for parents and in the Morning News for students and staff.



These workshops include outside hands-on activities during the regular school schedule and/or before/after school hours. Students in the STEM club are responsible for communicating every STEM challenge instruction. We plan to repeat every year the School Calendar posters made by students with shared paper from the office as something that will identify us for many years. Students not only do the paper, but they also design the calendar through a school contest.

Although lights automatically turn off when detecting no motion in rooms and common areas, our students and staff turn them off when leaving the rooms as a good habit to keep at home as well. On the other hand, the 18 hydroponics inside the school that recirculate the water for irrigation are a great learning tool for teachers and students. It models different forces and energy changes, the parts of plants, and their functions, and it shows how the plants respond to different stimuli. Students check the PH and maintain the right level of nutrients in the water. These towers also produce a calm water-running sound that helps our students to stay focused in class and install a high sense of responsibility on our Explorers because they take care of the towers.

Our outdoor learning activities promote health and wellness while also supporting classroom learning in real life. Some of these learning activities are developed by the Garden Club which takes place every Thursday from 7:40 to 8:30 am. Other clubs, Solar, STEM, STEAM, and Chess, meet before or after school hours for inside/outside projects each week. All of them group students of all grades and count on the participation and/or support of the families.

The school has rainwater collection barrels installed by the STEM club. Our school can boast of having a sundial calculated and built by our students. Solar club members, parents, and volunteers from Home Depot and Lowe's participated in this project. We keep outdoor areas clean and useful and spend time outside working and learning about the natural world.

Students participated in several projects that took place outside. They worked on solar cars and boats, solar ovens, solar cookers, solar plants/ fruits dehydrators, solar heaters, school sundials, rainwater barrels, compost in a bottle, two school compost containers, bugs hotel, butterfly garden, drip irrigation systems, birds houses and fountain, school garden, rocket launches, chess games, and tournaments, among many others. Our students got to learn about pollinators, natural insecticides, gardening and plants, native plants from Florida, how to make paper, how to save water, how to take care of the plants, how to build a sundial, and how it works. Students and teachers learned about bees and compost. They learned about solar radiation and its uses. They learned how to dehydrate fruits and heat water on a small scale.

Our plan for this year is to build a bigger solar water heater for the school using recycled materials and implement different Cooling Areas where students and staff can cool off while outside. The cooling areas will run thanks to the photovoltaic panels installed as fans' energy sources.



**Photos:**

Our students actively participate in keeping our campus clean. They pick up litter together and sort waste into necessary bins for best waste removal.



Students maintain all of our gardens. They learn about ecosystems and where food comes from.





The second time that one of our students, guided by the Art teacher, has been selected to include her artwork in the Orange County Utility calendar.



Students learn in many ways the importance of composting and the impact it has in reducing carbon emissions as well as create rich soil for use in our gardens. Classes have studied compost in bottles as well.





Sally Ride Elementary students learn how to harness the energy from the sun to cook their food through many different devices. In this instance, they are waiting for their marshmallows to roast and they boil water in the solar cooker. They have also dehydrated fruits using the energy from the sun. The students learned how to read and orientate a sundial while designing their paper sundials.



Investigation about turtles and their habitat in the STEM lab. These students are getting ready to participate in the competition in the Solar Energy Institute in Cocoa Beach.





Learning about plants, bugs, bees, and composting with speakers from different organizations.



Water collected in the rainwater barrels is used in different projects such as the solar boat and to make paper.





Students teach other students and families how to make paper with recycled paper.

