



School Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

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

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.

Caroll Grimando Digitally signed by Caroll Grimando
Date: 2024.01.05 09:57:32 -05'00'

Date:

(Principal's Signature)

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 14:50:18 -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 10:46:36 -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 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: Zellwood Elementary School

Address: 3551 Washington Street City: Zellwood State: FL Zip: 32798-5308

Twitter: @ZellwoodEagles Facebook: Zellwood Elementary School - OCPS

Principal: Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): Ms. First Name: Caroll Last Name: Grimando

Email: caroll.grimando@ocps.net Phone: 407-884-2258

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: 88.4%

Special Education: 10.1%

Minority: 81%

Graduation Rate: N/A

Limited English Proficient: 23.5%

Attendance Rate: 92%

Provide the following:

Total Enrolled: 528 students as of 11/15/2023



Documentation of Sustainability Achievement

Summary Narrative: An Overview of Work Encompassing All Three Pillars

Zellwood is a LEED certified school. Due to this, our principal has made it a priority that we foster everything green. We are also an Everglades Champion School at the gold level. We collaborate with other schools to help with green initiatives. Our Environmental Committee meets monthly and sometimes more, if needed, to plan activities around sustainability. We show off our green motto on ClassDojo, Twitter, morning announcements, and in our foyer. Teachers are encouraged to take professional training about the Everglades, bird counting, and waste management programs. Our PTA helps fund our student-led initiatives, including our Trash to Treasure activity and pop tab collection incentives. We hold two (2) campus Beautification Days, an Earth Day Expo, and incorporate environmental and wellness issues into our Literacy Night and Family Fun Night.

Zellwood has community partnerships with the Zellwood Historical Society, Orange County Audubon Society, Everglades Literacy Foundation, University of Florida Consumer Science, Orlando Utility Commission (OUC), Charity Recycling Services, and Zellwood Water Users. We have yearlong commitments through grants and student programs that help foster environmental education. Our students lead the way to teach other students and parents about gardening, the importance of energy and water reduction. The older grades were ambassadors to our K-2 students showing them how to recycle. 5th grade students worked together in our hydroponic and outside gardens. 4th grade students learned from community members about the history of Lake Apopka and discussed it with some of our 3rd grade students. The Jr. Birding Club has joined the Orange County Audubon Society as “Bird Experts” to teach others about birds.

We take pride in what we do. We are Zellwood Elementary School from Orange County Public Schools in Florida. We are invested in our students and the planet. Our goal in growing this culture is endless, as we dream of more ways to limit our negative environmental impacts and promote a sustainable future. As one of the top three winners in the OCPS Green Schools Recognition Program, we have been identified and celebrated as a “stand out” Green School. We have been recognized by the State of Florida as a Green Apple School. We feel we are doing amazing things for Planet Earth and will continue pursuing more ways to reach students, our community and beyond.



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

School sustainability is very important to our students and staff. Staff members were given reusable coffee cups, as well as refillable water bottles to reduce disposable waste. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to refill at our water stations. Students track water, waste, and recyclables and discuss ways to reduce our use. All students are Earth-Savers and work together by grade levels to collect waste on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students have classroom jobs about energy and water conservation. The Evergreen club does monthly audits and tracks our school usage that is visible for everyone in the foyer. A leak was detected and was submitted to be fixed. They completed transportation audits and learned that our car line does very well as idling is low and our buses turn off their engines when no students are on. There are recycling bins in every classroom and in every hallway. Students recycle in our bins as well as ink cartridges, crayons, pop tabs, markers, batteries, pencils, glue sticks, and toothpaste. Supplies are recycled to our surplus department for others in need. Below are some district-wide initiatives that Zellwood participates in:

- Energy usage is monitored through the District's Energy CAP management program which addresses suspicious spikes in consumption.
- LED lights are used within the school and motion sensors initiate lights in the building.
- ENERGY STAR-rated equipment is used, including printers and smartboards.
- We participated in Walk or Bike to school day.
- Water consumption is monitored through the District's Energy CAP management program which addresses suspicious spikes.
- Low-flow toilets and auto-shut-off faucets are installed in restrooms.
- Water assessments are 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 3 garbage pickups per week by Waste Management.
- Hazardous waste is collected separately and picked up by the District's Environmental Compliance Department, who then properly recycles or disposes of those items through respective vendors.
- Water bottle refill station to encourage the use of reusable water bottles as opposed to single-use bottles.
- Clothing and shoes donation drive is setup in the parking lot.
- Recycling posters are located in classrooms.



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

Our students love to go outside! Students can grab supplies and head to our outdoor learning space to learn and be next to nature. We have several areas that we maintain for student use. Students in our Evergreen Club pick up trash once a month and NEHS supplements this effort. Additionally, any grade level throughout the day will pick up trash to keep our campus beautiful! Almost all of our students walk by our native plants, flower, and vegetable gardens to and from recess every day. The Evergreen Club received a grant and erected birdhouses to help our bird population. There are 2 bird watering baths located in the front and back of the school. Student love our new fitness/wellness trail that surrounds the perimeter of our campus. Native and vegetable gardens are maintained by our Champions (after-school care), EverGreen Club and the Green Thumb Gardening Club.

We have incorporated our school garden with help from every grade level helping out with tending and caring for the vegetable garden. 5th grade students studied, drew up a map, and grew plants from seeds to transplant to our outside garden, the Evergreen club grew from seeds native butterfly milkweed and other native plants. We have a huge hydroponic gardening program that encompasses our whole school. Students help tend to the plants from seed, to harvest, and eating. They even had a taste-testing give away to parents at our Earth Day Expo. Students love field day, our fitness spot at Family Fun Night and APEX fitness that incorporates social learning. Our APEX fitness challenge lasted two weeks and not only focused on fitness, but provided leadership and character-building portion of this program. The quick, engaging lessons tie in with our school's vision and mission, encouraging students to create a positive environment, and inspiring them to lead by example and make a positive impact on the world. Our new Fitness/Wellness trail was unveiled for students to use during recess and P.E. We also have alternative PE classes for students to do Kid Yoga and Mindfulness activities.

The following are District-wide initiatives that are in place at Zellwood:

- [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.
- 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 labeled and stored all chemicals.
- No visible mold or mildew, and if an issue were to arise, the Environmental Compliance Department works with other Departments and vendors to resolve issue in a timely manner.
- 100% smoke-free.
- School medical emergency plan includes information about asthma/allergies, and staff are provided information on what to do in those emergency situations.
- Occupied hours temperature ranges between 68 and 72 degrees in heating mode, 74 and 77 in cooling mode. Unoccupied hours temperature is 50 degrees for heating and 85 for cooling.
- 3 garbage pickups per week
- 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, reduce human exposure to pesticides, particularly that of children, and to reduce the costs of pest control.
- Zellwood Water monitors water quality for Zellwood Elementary School. Florida participates in SWAPP (Source Water Assessment and Protection Program). This program is meant to ensure that our 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).
- 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 also goes 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

We are an Everglades Champion School and we immerse all our students in environmental sustainability efforts. Students learn about invasive species, habitat loss, endangered species and water quality. The Evergreen Club is part of a Citizen Science project documenting birds each month and writing letters to Amazon. They are concerned about the new buildings and native and migrating bird habitat. Students in K-5th joined in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count or the Great Backyard Bird Count. Kindergarten visited Gatorland, 4th grade visited our community gardens, 3rd grade visited the Orlando Science Center and learned about water, wetlands, and produce grown in our area. First grade visited Sea World and learned about different types of marine animals and their needs. Many students went on virtual field trips about the wetland animals and collected data on what they saw. Third grade teachers joined together and made Lego neighborhoods for birds. The STEM club competed with solar sprint cars and solar ovens in a Super STEM Saturday and Energy Whiz event.

As a community, we have had to research how hydroponics gardening is very different from soil gardening. The EverGreen Club and various classrooms have grown lettuce and arugula. In addition, we have grown plants in soil to transplant in to the outside garden. Our main hydroponic garden is upstairs in our atrium where students and parents walk past to enter the library. We also have two additional hydroponic garden areas in the front office lobby and the cafeteria. Everyone can see, touch, smell and discuss plant growth. Many of the students are excited to be able to eat and taste their hard work. Students are learning about parts of the plant, plant needs, and plant diversity. Kindergarten and 1st grade have standards for making observations with their senses and would like to use the sensory herb garden. We have 3 hydroponic systems and the Fifth grade and EverGreen Club checks the water and nutrients weekly. The rockwool and vermiculite will help us have continuous plants in our atrium area allowing us to study and learn about plants, plant needs, plant and light cycles, and give our students hands on experiences with growing their own plants, tasting their fruit, and hopefully selling their mature plants to raise more money. Students at Zellwood maintain and learn in their garden beds throughout the school year.

These activities and others earned Zellwood recognition by the Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) Sustainability office as the 3rd place winner in the OCPS Green Schools Recognition Program, which is a

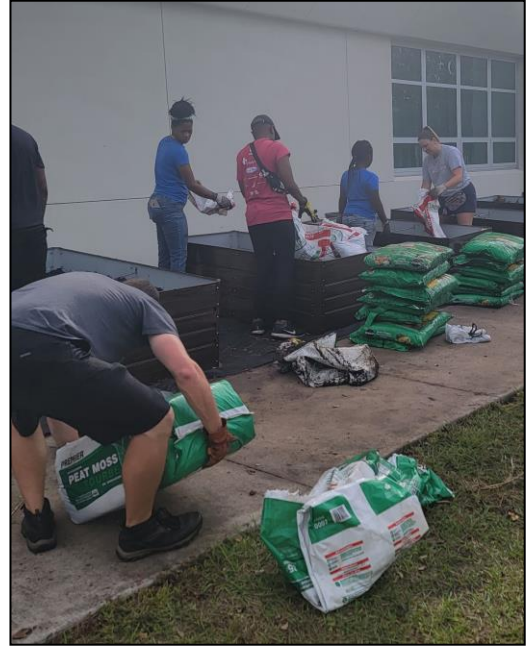


competitive program that honors and recognizes schools for their achievements in sustainability. In addition to this award, Zellwood received awards in the categories of water conservation and energy conservation.

Photos:

Families and staff members come together on Saturday Beautification Days to weed, plant and build new gardening areas. Students tend the outdoor garden areas as part of clubs and grade level efforts.





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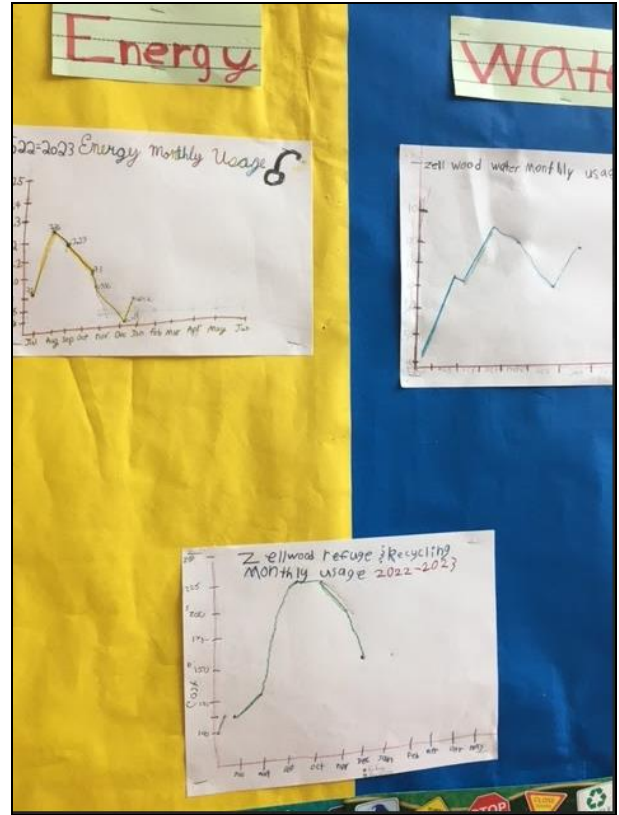
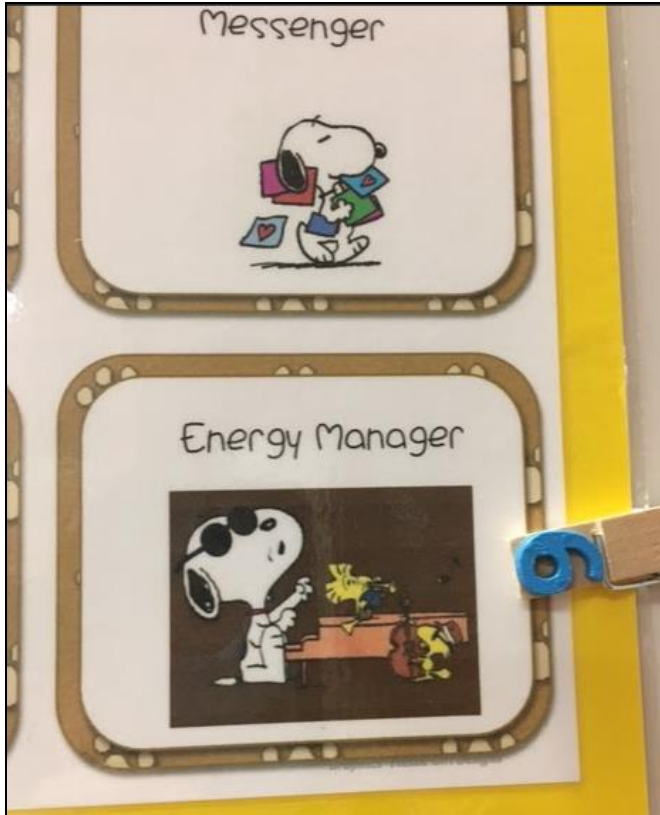
Zellwood students participate in a very large indoor hydroponics learning initiative. Students are surrounded by indoor growing systems to learn about alternatives to outdoor gardening.



Zellwood Elementary students get the opportunity to utilize our outdoor fitness trail, which promotes health and well-being, while offering another outdoor learning experience.



Students' lives are enriched through our many community partnerships at Zellwood Elementary School. Zellwood Historical Society did an educational immersion about the importance of the honeybee.



Sustainability is incredibly important to Zellwood Elementary School. Students monitor their monthly consumption of different commodities. This is a great way our green culture is incorporated into our curriculum and behavior. Each class is assigned an energy manager role that rotates throughout the year. This role helps encourage sustainable practices such as turning the lights off when the class leaves.