PART I – NOMINEE INFORMATION

School, District (LEA), or Postsecondary Institution Name: St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School
Category of Nomination (School, District, or Postsecondary): School

Address: 4700 Whitehaven Parkway, NW City: Washington State: DC Zip: 20007
Twitter: Facebook:

Top Official (School=Principal; District=Chancellor/CEO; Postsecondary Institution=President)
Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): Ms. First Name: Jalene Last Name: Spain Thomas
Position/Role (Principal/ Chancellor/ CEO/ President): Head of School
Email: thomasjs@stpatsdc.org Phone:

Lead Applicant (if different)
Title (Mr./Ms./Mrs./ Dr.): Mr. First Name: Sam Last Name: Mason
Position or Role (e.g., Teacher/ Sustainability Director/ Facilities Director): Assistant Head of Lower School and Director of Sustainability
Email: masons@stpatsdc.org Phone: 240-277-0575

Check all that apply:

- Early Learning ☒
- Elementary ☒
- Magnet ☐
- Non-Public ☒
- Middle ☒
- High ☐
- Two-Year ☐
- Four-Year ☐
- Public ☐
- Charter ☐
- Community College ☐
- Career and Technical ☐

Provide percentages, if any are relevant to your school, district, or institution:

Pell Recipients:
Free and Reduced Price Lunch:
Minority: 38%
Limited English Proficient:
Special Education:
Graduation Rate:
Attendance Rate:

Provide the following:

Total Enrolled: 475 Number of Schools: 1 Buildings: 4 Campuses: 3

PART II – DOCUMENTATION OF SUSTAINABILITY ACHIEVEMENT

The following document was written by our Sustainability Student Teams with help from our Sustainability Leaders and Faculty.

Pillar I - Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs

St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School is at the forefront of the sustainability movement in K-12 schools, particularly in engagement and education programs. We seek to equip students to meet these challenges through modeling best management practices within our physical plant; integration of environmental themes, content, and skill-building in an interdisciplinary curriculum; and stewardship opportunities in our day-to-day lives at school and in the broader communities of which we are a part.

Garden:

In 2020, St. Patrick's built a 4,000-square-foot garden to increase our percentage of local plants, help students understand the importance of local foods, get students into hands-on gardening opportunities, and provide opportunities for us to eat food that was grown on our campus.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas:

The District of Columbia's sustainability plan (Sustainable DC 2.0) to reduce citywide greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption by 50 percent by 2032. Currently, St. Patrick's continues to move towards the use of cleaner energy forms and thus reducing greenhouse gasses. One major area has been the installation of 50 Energy Star heat pumps (Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) with ratings of SEER/HSPF: 33.1/14.0) placed in all three buildings (to be known as: main building at 4700 Whitehaven, Gym at 4701 Whitehaven, and the middle school at 4590 MacArthur Blvd.). St. Patrick's has also upgraded to an electric boiler (main building) and cooling towers on the roof to reject the unwanted heat from a building. For 2023, encompassing two campuses and a gym for a total of 201,459 square feet of measured floor area, the following was found:

- Energy use was 1,898,071.5 KWH.
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per square foot was 659.5 KG/SF with a total of 116 metric tons (MT) for the year. Yearly cost reduction of 30%.

Water Quality:

St. Patrick's water supply comes from the Aqueduct which filters and cleans at the Dalecarlia and McMillan treatment plants to meet all water quality standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Water surveys were last completed in 2022 and found that St. Patrick's (filtration system) met or exceeded EPA standards.

All school bathrooms have low flow toilets installed. Bathroom sinks reduce water waste with the use of hand sensors. Water bottle filling stations have been incorporated into water fountains to reduce water waste. St. Patrick's students are encouraged to bring reusable water bottles to school each day and refill them at bottle filling stations. These stations

are cleaned daily and the filters are replaced as needed to provide the highest quality drinking water for students. Students and staff have access to filtered water in the lunchroom and classrooms.

St. Patrick's has installed 75% of native plantings throughout the campuses increasing water and soil conservation as well as offering wildlife habitats.

Efficiency and Conservation:
By using eco-friendly LED lighting, St. Patrick's maintains a greener environment using 80% less energy resulting in lower greenhouse gas emissions. Seventy percent of St. Patrick's lighting comes from LEDs. Now upgraded to 95% LED bulb usage in all three buildings, St. Patrick's saves between 15 to 20% yearly. All classrooms, office and common spaces, and restrooms have light movement sensors installed to automatically turn off lights when not in use.

Waste Reduction:
At this moment, St. Patrick's has trash cans in the lunchrooms with holes the size of tennis balls and we are 99% waste-free in the lunch room. Beginning in 2018, students, faculty and staff, committed to maintaining a green campus. Currently, the school composts over 900 gallons a week reducing lunchtime trash to less than 20 gallons a day for the 600-member community. This equates to a yearly reduction of landfill waste by 60% and saving the school $14,000.00 yearly. St. Patrick's has partnered with Food Rescue US, serving local social service agencies that serve food insecure individuals and families donating 16 pounds of leftover lunches each week creating 12 meals for our neighbors in need.

Important Statistics

- St. Patrick's composts 3,420 pounds from the lunch room each week (Volume)
- St Patrick's donates 16 pounds of food each week
- St. Patrick's has reduced their waste to the landfill by 60% since 2018
- St. Patrick's has a near zero waste lunchroom

Disposal of Hazardous Waste:
The Day School always uses chemicals as directed on the container and as described within the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), which are available in the Health Office to be reviewed. (Employees should review and understand how to properly use all chemicals before using). St. Patrick's keeps in mind that children are in the building and may lack the understanding that some chemicals are dangerous. Faculty and staff do not leave chemicals anywhere that children may access them, even for a short period of time, and always relock chemical storage cabinets after unlocking.

For hazardous materials in the science labs, teachers follow storage and disposal directions found on MSDS sheets. Hazardous materials are stored in a labeled, corrosive, or flammable cabinet. Hazardous materials that need to be disposed of are disposed in accordance with procedures on the MSDS sheets. MSDS sheets for chemicals stored in the science lab can be found with the chemicals or on a shared Science Department Google document. The School's policy for compliance with OSHA is detailed in the Building Information located in the office of the Facilities Director.

Transportation and Carpooling:

It is the school's expectation that parents will form carpools. Carpooling offers a variety of benefits, including increased safety for children and for St. Patrick's and non-St. Patrick's drivers with reduced traffic congestion. Our school collected the data below, in order to begin a bus route study. We are in conversations with schools around us as part of our sustainability efforts and aim to have bus routes in place for the 2024-2025 school year. In Spring 2023, we collected transportation data, which summarized here. Indicated below are approximate percentages of students who use each mode of transportation to and from St. Patrick's:

- School Operated Buses: **0**%
- Public Transportation: **2**%
- Walk or Ride Bicycles: **6**%
- Private Vehicle Carpools: **92**%
- Contracted Buses: **0**%

The Day School owns one transportation vehicle, a 2018 Saf-T-Liner C2 (46 passenger). Currently, St. Patrick's uses this bus for a MacArthur Campus shuttle bus run to transport students from one campus to the other. Morning bus shuttle runs start at 7:50 am from the Whitehaven Campus to the MacArthur Campus. There are several bus runs at the end of the day for sports and Extended Day. The bus is occasionally used for field trips for Grades 6, 7, and 8; Extended Day; and Summer Camp.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 Emissions:
The Sustainability Board Task Force hired GreenerU in 2021 to work with us on lowering our emissions. We become one of the only K-8 schools in the country to go through the STARS AASHE reporting process and created carbon footprint goals, which are at the bottom as well as a full website.

Pillar II: Improve Health and Wellness

Health Programs and Wellness:
St. Patrick's incorporates the whole school, whole community, whole child, or WSCC model. Rooted in the school's mission statement, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School strives to create a diverse and inclusive learning community of students, faculty and staff, and parents who recognize the infinite value of every individual as a child of God. The school is committed to developing character, advancing human understanding, and promoting academic excellence to shape engaged citizens who live with integrity, empathy, and purpose.

Health curriculum:
As of the 2022-2023 school year, we have two full-time counselors who work in conjunction, when available, with the School Nurses, Science Department and Physical Education Department on our Health Education. The Grades 5-8 Health Curriculums have been redesigned to include units on puberty and mental health. While there have been pockets of Health education occurring throughout Nursery through Grades 4, we have plans to create and implement an inclusive curriculum for Nursery through Grade 4. Nursery through Grade 5 spend time in the School Garden learning about the benefits of fresh food and Grades 1 and 5 spend time learning about farm-to-table and healthy eating. Positive Discipline has been woven into the K-8 curriculum by addressing social-emotional wellbeing. Nursery implements lessons that

include body awareness and boundaries, resilience, and personal hygiene. In Science, Kindergarten learns about the digestive system and Kindergarten and Grade 1 learn about the heart during Physical Education class. The Physical Education team teaches all students how to resettle and calm through mindfulness.

Kindergarten through Grade 8 participate in Gifts for Good, an alternate holiday fair, which focuses on food insecurity, animal welfare, the environment, kids and families, health, and education. St. Patrick's Middle School is in partnership with Warrior Canine Connection, "a pioneering organization that utilizes a Mission Based Trauma Recovery (MBTR) model to help recovering Warriors reconnect with life, their families, their communities, and each other", helping to train service dogs which offers our students opportunities to build empathy and caring.

St. Patrick's SEEDS: Social, Emotional, Equity, Diversity, Spirituality:
Assistant Head of School for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and Director of Innovation in Teaching & Learning have been tasked by the HOS to work collaboratively with Division Heads to document our SEL and EDI Scope and Sequence. In all three divisions (Nursery, Lower, and Middle), classroom teachers receive a Book of the Month. These titles are part of the St. Patrick's SEEDS (Social, Emotional, Equity, Diversity, Spirituality) curriculum which was developed by a select group of colleagues to give the entire School community common language and themes on a variety of topics. This group also develops activities that support the texts. These activities can be used throughout the school. In all three divisions, over 40 teachers have completed the Positive Discipline in the Classroom certification training and are now incorporating this philosophy into their classrooms. One of the full-time counselors is a Certified Positive Discipline Trainer. This counselor will continue to train members of the faculty and staff in this philosophy. As of the 2023-2024 school year, grade 4 and 5 students have the ability to join a leadership team called the "Belonging Team" to help support more inclusivity and a sense of belonging amongst the student body. As mentioned above, Grades 5-8 also learn to navigate social-emotional health, social media and technology appropriately through implementation of the #WinAtSocial Curriculum. As of 2023, teachers established year long Middle School and Lower School classroom partnerships. Students partner between classrooms and periodically meet together throughout the year, often around the Book of the Month curriculum.

Counseling, Psychological and Social Services:
St. Patrick's has two full time school counselors. One has a Masters in Social Work and the other a Licensed Clinical Social Worker-Certified on site daily from 8:00 am - 3:30 pm. School Counselors are available to students and families on matters ranging from day-to-day problems to more serious concerns related to school and/or home. Parents are encouraged to avail themselves of this service as the need arises. School Counselors also conduct periodic parent-education programs such as: parenting classes in Nursery school. We encourage all parents to attend these programs. The school may, at appropriate times, recommend that a family or child (with parents' knowledge) use the services of a School Counselor. School Counselors may also meet with groups of students and the classroom teacher to discuss and resolve friendship or social issues or consult with teachers regarding ways to strengthen the classroom community.

Physical Activity/ Physical Education:
All grades, Nursery through Grade 8 have recess at least twice a day. Periods range from 15-20 minutes in the morning and following lunch. Physical Education in Nursery and Pre-Kindergarten runs with two 20 minute periods during a six

day cycle. Kindergarten through Grade 3 runs with two 40 minute periods during a six day cycle. Grades 4 through 6 runs with three 40 minute periods during a six day cycle.

Athletics is an integral part of St. Patrick's effort to nurture the mind, body, and spirit. St. Patrick's is a member of the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC). The conference, a group of like-configured independent schools in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. St. Patrick's fields interscholastic teams on the varsity and junior varsity levels. The varsity teams comprise students in Grades 7 and 8, for whom athletics is a required component of the school day. Grade 6 students play on junior varsity teams. There are also developmental sports for Grades 3 through 5. Sports for Grades 6 through 8 include: soccer, basketball, cross country, lacrosse, and track and field.

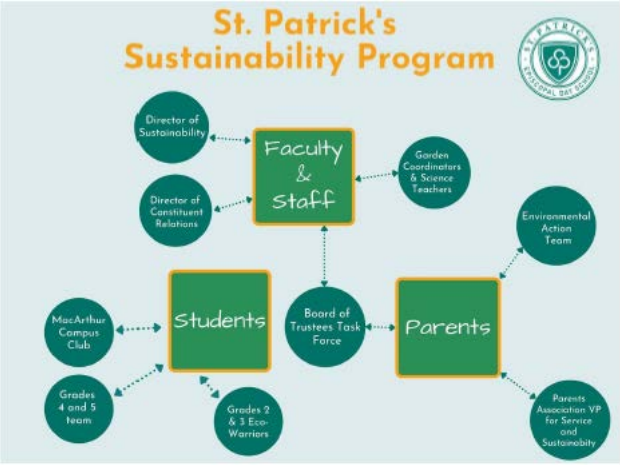
Staff Health Promotion:
St. Patrick's is committed to increasing our understanding of environmental sustainability-related topics and initiatives through professional development for faculty, staff, and administrators. We are also committed to developing partnerships within our local community and beyond as we strive to learn about, implement, and extend best management practices so that we can become more sustainable. We have sponsored sustainability speakers and provided professional development for faculty and staff focused on outdoor education and environmental sustainability.

In 2022, our school-wide Community Cares Initiatives were introduced to help all St. Patrick's employees. These initiatives have included, but are not limited to, opportunities for in-school massage therapy, flexible professional development days which can be used to attend to personal or professional needs, and yearly one-on-one check-ins with Head of School Jalene Spain Thomas. Physical wellness programs include free weekly exercise classes that focus on high intensity interval training and building community, free weekly pickleball games on the Sport Court (introduced in 2022), and annual on-site staff vaccine clinics to distribute the flu and COVID vaccines. Experts continue to visit St. Patrick's to offer Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) professional development for all employees, addressing topics that include antiracism, gender and sexuality, social media, and mindfulness. St. Patrick's has consistently focused on mental health and emotional well-being as components of all employee insurance packages.

Family and Community Involvement:
The two documents below demonstrate some the deep culture of sustainability in our community. The program outline shows the different parts of the schools program. The director of sustainability oversees the following groups:

- Director of Constituent Relations - Weekly meeting to discuss community sustainability
- Garden Coordinators - Bi-weekly meetings to work on sustainability initiatives
- Grades 2-3 Sustainability Team - Meets weekly to work on projects such as raising money for animals at farmers markets, planting, and clearing land for invasive species
- Grades 4-5 Sustainability Team - Meets weekly to work on projects such as overseeing the garden, planting wildflowers, and doing waste audits at lunch
- Grades 6-8 Sustainability Team - Meets weekly to work on projects such as overseeing our 3 Grow Towers, plan earth day events day events, and work on lowering the schools carbon footprint through waste reduction methods

- Parents Association Rep - Works with the director of sustainability to report out to the PA and allocate sustainability funds from the PA
- Board Task Force - Works with the sustainability director to take on major projects such as STAR AASHE and create overarching goals for the school
- Parent Task Force - This is one of the most influential sustainability groups at the school. The calendar below is completely run by them. They were responsible for fundraising $50,000 for the garden. They meet once a month and run 5 major events a year as seen below. The Earth Day event usually has 4 or 5 main attractions such as solar powered coffee, clothing resale, planting, creating trails, and working with Casey Trees, and attracts around 200 people.



Writing and Learning Series:
The WLC Series focuses on student life inside and outside of school, incorporating topics such as health and wellbeing and what successful studentship looks like. This series aims to provide a holistic overview of student life while giving parents the tools that they need to help their student(s) thrive.

Affinity Groups and Ally Groups:
Currently, St. Patrick's has nine affinity and ally groups open to parents, parents and students, or students. These groups meet throughout the year and . They are: Parents of Black Students, C3 (Culture, Creed Community) brings together Black students, Hispanohablantes brings together Spanish-speaking students, San Patricio brings together Hispanic/LatinX families, ASIA and PASIA are for students and parents who share Asian and Pacific Islander heritage, Jewish Faculty Affinity Group, Anti Racist Practice Group for Parents, Anti Racist Alliance is an ally group for students in Middle School, and The Middle School Student Gender and Sexualities Alliance (GSA).

Cleaning and Maintenance:
St. Patrick's has partnered with MCS Inc. Green Cleaning Program whose goal is to go beyond the tactical implementation of cleaning procedures mandated in GS-37, to become a partner in maintaining a truly healthy learning environment at St. Patrick's. The building cleaning supplies and practices follow EPA guidelines. All cleaning supplies are Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) holding the following certifications: Green Seal and Ecologo Certifications. Vacuum cleaning utilizes 95% of particulates 0.3 microns in size.

Mold and Moisture:
St. Patrick's has several ways of preventing mold and moisture issues. The iWave-R residential duct A/C systems treats the air in any brand of residential duct air conditioning systems up to 6 tons (2400 CFM) in size with no maintenance and no replacement parts for the life of the device producing over 160 million ions/cc per polarity (320 million total ions/cc). These units are placed in the A/C ducts in all three buildings. Another system is Beyond Guardian by Aerus which holds a Certified Space Technology seal by the Space Foundation. The system, which addresses allergens, mold, VOCs and air pollutants, covers up to 2,500 sq. ft. (232m2) depending on occupant density and other factors. These units are located in each classroom and some office common areas in all three buildings. Finally, we have installed UV light systems that filter and purify fresh and recirculated air before it is delivered to occupied spaces and cold plasma generators installed within air ducts that destroy bacteria and produce ions essential to healthy indoor air quality.

Chemical Environmental:
The Day School always uses chemicals as directed on the container and as described within the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), which are available in the Health Office to be reviewed. (Employees should review and understand how to properly use all chemicals before using). St. Patrick's keeps in mind that children are in the building and may lack the understanding that some chemicals are dangerous.

For hazardous materials in the science labs, teachers follow storage and disposal directions found on MSDS sheets. Hazardous materials are stored in a labeled, corrosive, or flammable cabinet. Hazardous materials that need to be disposed of are disposed in accordance with procedures on the MSDS sheets. The School's policy for compliance with OSHA is detailed in the Building Information (red binder) located in the office of the Facilities Director.

Ventilation:
St. Patrick's has made significant upgrades to our air-handling systems. Fresh and recirculated air is filtered before it is distributed to the various HVAC vents. We have installed UV light systems that filter and purify fresh and recirculated air before it is delivered to occupied spaces and cold plasma generators installed within air ducts that destroy bacteria and produce ions essential to healthy indoor air quality. We have also installed MERV 10-13 filters on all HVAC systems and change filters quarterly. In addition, we will continue the process of running the fresh-air, air-handling, and power exhaust systems through our Building Automation System continuously, rather than not running them at night or on weekends, to further purify indoor air.

The Day School's readings for air turnover rates showed that the average level of CO_2 was well below the minimum standards required for healthy indoor air quality. ASHRAE Ventilation Standard with classrooms having a ventilation rate

of 15 CFM per person and offices having 20 CFM per person. By doing so, St. Patrick's has improved both the short and long-term health issues of students, faculty, and staff by helping to reduce coughs, eye irritations, headaches, allergic reactions, asthma flare-ups, and other respiratory issues.

Pest and Pesticides:
St. Patrick's uses an outside lawn and tree service which uses environmentally friendly treatment materials sanctioned by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional EPA Offices - US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Pesticide Data Program - US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Chemical pesticides are not used at St. Patrick's. Instead, our pest control provider utilizes glue-based sticky traps that are replaced monthly or more frequently during the fall and winter months. We use our school's lunchrooms for eating, wipe down all lunchroom tables after each lunch period, eat snacks outside of the buildings, mop and vacuum floors daily or as needed, break down empty boxes and recycle, and empty trash cans throughout the day.

Pillar III: Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Sustainability Curriculum:
St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School is at the forefront of the sustainability movement in K-12 schools, particularly in engagement and education programs. We seek to equip students to meet these challenges through modeling best management practices within our physical plant; integration of environmental themes, content, and skill-building in an interdisciplinary curriculum; and stewardship opportunities in our day-to-day lives at school and in the broader communities which we are a part. The school's thoughtful and ambitious work in educating and preparing their students has grown in leaps and bounds since the foundation of the sustainability program in 2017. Faculty and staff and students in Nursery to Grade 8 are committed to integrating environmental sustainability into their lives and classrooms, recognizing it as a vital and necessary part of our institutional mission and our School Creed. This commitment is evident in a curriculum that values sustainability.

Across the grade levels, St. Patrick's curriculum fosters and ignites student's passion with an appreciation of the world's beauty and a sense of rich possibility along with a depth of knowledge about its complexities and challenges and a determination to make a positive difference in its care. Our STEM based curriculum (which includes cross curricular classes in science, health, social service, technology, math, and homeroom work) and hands-on experiences increases sustainability practices through our classrooms and labs, science class grow towers, a 3,750 square-foot garden and outdoor learning space designed and built by DC Love & Carrots, an urban garden and landscape firm, consisting of nine raised garden beds, five large movable beds, two large outdoor classrooms, and an upcoming pollinator garden, wetland and wooded areas. The outdoor garden classroom offers students a hands-on opportunity to learn about where our food comes from, to nurture stewardship of plantings and produce, and to spark relevant and ongoing conversations about how gardens can promote social justice and assist in the fight for food insecurity in D.C.

Nursery School Curriculum:
- Introduction to composting
- Weekly gardening

- Discussions about the Earth and how to care for it
- Lessons about space and the Earth
- Introduction to plants and animals
- Life cycle of products (such as paper coming from trees)
- Introduction to recycling
- Discussions about water use and food waste

Lower School Curriculum:

Kindergarten:

- Discussions about recycling and composting
- Lessons about transportation
- Discussions about walking and biking
- Animal habitat study

Grade 1:

- Anacostia River Trip
- Lessons based on farm-to-table process
- Lessons about pollinators
- Monarch butterfly study

Grade 2:

- Compost Field Trip
- Eco-Warriors job
- Compost and recycling in the classroom (including batteries and markers)
- Lessons about sustainability and different cultures (American Indians and China)

Grade 3:

- Sustainability Team (participation optional)
- Environmental Action Team (participation optional)
- Recycling and composting daily
- DC FOCUS: During this unit we work with the students on DC and some of the environmental hazards in the area
    - We have a strong unit on food desserts and partner with DC Greens to get data to help students understand the inequities of food and environmental hazards between the wards. We use the maps below to help in our units. Attached is a presentation we have created to aid in our work.

Grade 4:

- Sustainability Team (participation optional)
- Environmental Action Team (participation optional)
- Shad project

- Endangered species study
- Discussions about sustainable food
- Introductions to complex environmental issues
- Discussions about sustainable cities and rivers

Grade 5:

- Compost Field Trip
- Sustainability Team (participation optional)
- Recycling and composting daily
- Horizons Outdoor Learning Center overnight trip in September that focuses on an herb garden & dairy farm work
- Shalom Farms service-learning trip that focuses on harvesting & sustainable farming practices
- Prehistoric farming study about why agriculture began
- Research-based oral debate between students about agriculture
- Student Environmental Action Group (participation optional)
- The Dig project where students identify a staple food crop and develop a civilization based on working with the land and making it better/stronger

Upper School Curriculum:

Grade 6:

- Sustainability Team (participation optional)
- Battery recycling
- Health lessons on sustainable food choices that focus on the importance of composting and healthy choices.
- Gift for Goods, an alternate holiday fare, raised enough money to supply 205 meals for the Capital Area Food Bank.

Grade 7:

- Sustainability Team (participation optional)
- The Middle School Sustainability Council (participation optional)
- Discussions about food waste
- Collecting data on lunchtime student food waste
- Recycling and composting daily
- Battery recycling
- Environmental Science - PBL projects around the essential question *How do we impact the world around us and how can you be the catalyst for change?*
- Discussions and projects about developing a sustainable city of the future
- Snack bag collection and reuse to create bottle bricks for a raised bed garden
- Aeroponic gardening
- Health: Lunch menu and healthy food food choices.

- Service Learning: “Think Smaller - Return For Seconds” lunch food waste reduction, moving wasted food from 3.65 lbs to 2.25 lbs daily. This is an overall reduction of 38%.
- Service Learning lessons about hunger using the Global Hunger Index and discussing food apartheid and their social justice implications

Grade 8:

- Sustainability Team (participation optional)
- Environmental Science Class
- Agricultural gene editing – CRISPR
- Snack bag collection and reuse to create bottle bricks for a raised bed garden
- Battery recycling
- Aeroponic gardening
- Community Service: Food Drive National Capital Area Food Bank collecting over
- 1,900 lbs of food to fight food insecurity

Middle School Immersive Summer Experience:

- Students at St. Patrick's have the opportunity to attend a one-week immersive sustainability-themed trip as they enter middle school. The experience is a culmination of all of their sustainability and conservation work throughout their time at St. Patrick's. They have taken trips to Costa Rica (15+ trips) and Iceland (twice) so far. The trip involves between 14 and 22 middle school students learning about the flora, fauna, culture, and sustainability efforts throughout the week. Costa Rica is more focused on conservation while Iceland has a clean energy concentration.

Grade-Level and Schoolwide Sustainability Initiatives:

1. Battery recycling: Grade 1 students began a battery recycling program, which encourages students to be conscious of their e-waste.
2. Snack bags: We have offered students alternative, healthier snack options out of bulk containers, which help decrease the number of snack bags that end up in our landfills, and Grade 5 students began a snack bag program with Terracycle to save and recycle snack bags still available for snacks.
3. Recycling Facility: Grade 2 students visited the Montgomery County Recycling Center in Derwood, MD, to see first-hand what happens to our discarded plastics and papers. Students are focusing on waste and helping the class compost, recycle, and find homes for items that would normally go in landfills.
4. Earth Day: Nursery School and Lower School students earned their Earth Day medals by cleaning up trash, planting, bagging compost, and making sustainability pledges. Middle School students created and presented science curriculum to the school.
5. Grade 4: Group Projects. 100% student-driven. Current projects are working on raising money for endangered species and planning an invasive species clean up.
6. Grade 5: Group Projects. 100% student-driven. Auditing the plants at the school and working on raising money for endangered species.

7. Lighting: The Maintenance Team continues to replace existing lights with LED's representing 70% of our lighting. Currently, we are at 95%+ LED use in all three buildings.
8. Grade 8 Environmental Action: Tracking and recording the local bird population through Bird Buddy smart bird feeders with AI-powered cameras. Continuing growing cycles with two main grow towers located in the science classroom. Planning Earth Day 2024 curriculum for Nursery through Grade 8.
9. Faculty and Staff: Our faculty and staff have been committed to reducing waste by moving away from straws, using reusable mugs and plates, and unsubscribing from junk mail that can clog their school mailboxes.

Eco-School Certification:
In 2019, St. Patrick's earned the covenant National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA Green-Flag Award for exceptional achievement for integrating sustainability into the curriculum and on school grounds. **St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School was the first EcoSchools USA Green Flag recipient in DC**. Eco-Schools create sustainable development practices and education for sustainable development. To earn the Green Flag, schools must implement and document at least 3 pathways and completed projects that are at least partially student-driven.

St. Patrick's went above and beyond and completed six pathways and completed projects in all of the following categories: Biodiversity, Consumption & Waste, Energy, Healthy Living, Schoolyard Habitats, and Sustainable Food. The specifics of these include building our 4,000 square food garden, doing a full waste audit, doing a healthy living step challenge for faculty, grade 5 students calculating wasted food every day and working on increasing the native plants in our school grounds to over 70%. During these processes students worked with the head of school, CFO, teachers and the head of facilities to learn more about our campus and take on real challenges.

PART III – SUMMARY NARRATIVE

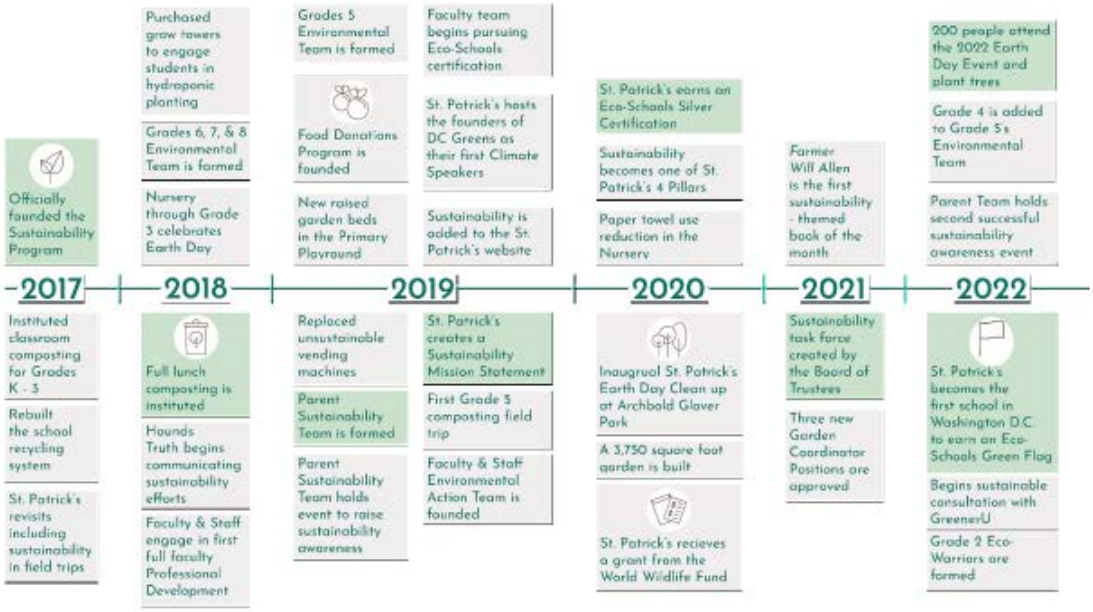
St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, located in northwest Washington, D.C, is a private elementary school serving 475 students in nursery school through grade eight. The school strives to shape engaged citizens who live with integrity, empathy, and purpose, in part by involving our community in service opportunities, social justice causes and the stewardship of the planet. The school recognizes environmental sustainability as a core principle.

Across the grade levels, St. Patrick's curriculum fosters and ignites student's passion with an appreciation of the world's beauty and a sense of rich possibility along with a depth of knowledge about its complexities and challenges and a determination to make a positive difference in its care. Our STEM based curriculum and hands-on experiences increases sustainability practices through our science classrooms and labs, science class grow towers, a 3,750 square-foot garden and outdoor learning space consisting of nine raised garden beds, five large movable beds, two large outdoor classrooms, and an upcoming pollinator garden, wetland and wooded areas. The outdoor garden classroom offers students a hands-on opportunity to learn about where our food comes from, to nurture stewardship of plantings and produce, and to spark relevant and ongoing conversations about how gardens can promote social justice and assist in the fight for food insecurity in D.C.

The National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools USA program recognized St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School as the first EcoSchools USA Green Flag recipient in DC. Eco-Schools create sustainable development practices and education for sustainable development for exceptional achievement for integrating sustainability into our curriculum and on school grounds.

Beginning in 2018, students, faculty and staff, committed to maintaining a green campus, compost over 900 gallons a week and reduced lunch time trash to less than 20 gallons a day for the 600-member community. The school continues to work towards a more sustainable planet.

The timeline below demonstrates some of our major accomplishments and progress. It tells the story of our narrative and our students chose the major events they deemed worthy of highlighting. The major accomplishments include founding a program in 2017, building a 40,000 square foot garden, planting a new set of trees by the garden, creating 5 community events a week, creating a sustainability task force with the board, instituting a full lunch composting program, and becoming the first school in DC to win the Eco-School certification.



St. Patrick's strategic planning goals were created by students, board members, adminstrators, teachers, and parents. Included are several goals related to environmental susutainability:

- Facilities: Maximize land use for student enrichment by 2028 through sustainable land management practices.
- Decarbonization: To achieve Net-Zero emissions by 2032 in alignment with DC Decarbonization target through emission reduction and to leverage our school leadership and policies to reduce our emissions in alignment with the global target of 2050 Net-Zero emissions.

- Curriculum: To have a successfully implemented environmental sustainability and justice curriculum (scope and sequence) by 2028 which is integrated into regular instruction.
- Community Engagement: To strengthen our community's commitment to sustainable practices by increasing awareness, opportunities, and participation each year.