



2012-2013 Nominee Presentation Form

PART I - ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION

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. *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 one or more of grades K-12. (Schools on the same campus with one principal, even a K-12 school, must apply as an entire school.)
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.
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.

GreenRibbon Schools

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools 2013

For Public Schools only: Charter Title I Magnet Choice

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

Official School Name Hometown Elementary School
(As it should appear in the official records)

School Mailing Address P.O. Box 194, Red House, WV, 25168
(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

City Red House, WV State WV Zip 25168

County Putnam State School Code Number* 72230

Telephone (304) 586-2395 Fax (304) 586-1014

Web site/URL putnam.schoolspan.com E-mail cjgraham@access.k12.wv.us

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

Dr. Graham Date 2-12-13
(Principal's Signature)

Name of Superintendent* Mr. Chuck Hatfield
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

District Name* Putnam Co. Schools Tel. 304 586-0500

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate. This is one of the highest performing green schools in my jurisdiction.

Chuck Hatfield Date 2-12-13
(Superintendent's Signature)

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

GreenRibbonSchools



PART II – SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Instructions to School Principal

Provide a concise and coherent "snapshot" that describes how your school is representative of your jurisdiction's highest achieving green school efforts in approximately 800 words. Summarize your strengths and accomplishments. Focus on what makes your school worthy of the title U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School.

PART III – DOCUMENTATION OF STATE EVALUATION OF NOMINEE

Instructions to Nominating Authority

The Nominating Authority must document schools' high achievement in each of the three ED-GRS Pillars and nine Elements. For each school nominated, please attach documentation in each Pillar and Element. This may be the Authority's application based on the Framework and sample application or a committee's written evaluation of a school in each Pillar and Element.

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.

1. The school has some configuration that includes one or more of grades K-12. (Schools on the same campus with one principal, even a K-12 school, must apply as an entire school.)
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

West Virginia Department of Education

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

GreenRibbonSchools



school meets the provisions above.


(Nominating Authority's Signature)

Date 2.14.12

The nomination package, including the signed certifications and documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars should be converted to a PDF file and emailed to green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509
Expiration Date: February 28, 2015

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.

Demographics and Application Information:
Of Hometown Elementary School

Hometown Elementary is located 30 miles from the Charleston, the capitol of West Virginia. The school is a small, rural, Title I school with the majority of students attending the school receiving free and reduced breakfast and lunch. The school has the highest percentage of at-risk, disadvantaged students in Putnam County.

The parents and the community are very much a part of all the activities and celebrations at Hometown Elementary School. This includes all "Keeping our school GREEN and Environmental Friendly. Earth week and Earth Day culminate with children, parents, business organizations and community pitching in to plant, rake, mulch, landscape, paint, repair and replace. All parents and guardians are very concerned that their child receives the best education possible so our school which includes learning about taking care of our school and mother earth. Hometown Elementary has an excellent attendance rate averaging 98% continually year after year. The community, parents and volunteers are very active and volunteer regularly for classroom and school-wide events including our school-wide paper recycling program.

Students are very focused on doing well in school. Hometown Elementary students receive some of the highest standardized test writing scores within the county despite being disadvantaged and at risk. Hometown Elementary students regularly participate and receive awards at the yearly Putnam County Waste Authority Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Contest. This is because the staff, parents, volunteers and community at Hometown Elementary School places a high priority on learning and achieving in all subject areas. Many of our students' families are single parent/grandparent households often times with one of the parents struggling with custody or court direct incarceration. Yet our students continue to succeed and to do well and our school achieves annual yearly progress repeatedly.

Hometown Elementary has received numerous awards including:

National Distinguished Title I School

West Virginia Distinguished Title I School (numerous times)

West Virginia Innovation Zone

West Virginia School of Excellence

Kennedy Center for the Arts Award "Spotlight on Your Community,"

Exemplary Schools Award, Best in Closing the Achievement Gap

Putnam County Schools Energy Awards:

Hometown Elementary named #1 School for Energy Savings in Putnam Co. 2008-09

Hometown Elementary named #1 School for Electricity, Natural Gas, Water and Sewer Savings August 2009

Hometown Elementary receives Energy Achievement Award July 2010

Hometown Elementary named #1 School for Cost Avoidance in Putnam County 2010-11

Hometown Elementary received Energy Achievement Award March 2011

Top Energy Avoidance School in Putnam County Award (\$500.00) November 2012

Special Environmental Field Trips and Projects

Hometown Elementary students on a field trip to the Toyota Motor and Manufacturing Plant in Buffalo, West Virginia learned about the zero waste program that the Toyota plant has implemented both in water conservation and reclamation and recycling plastic and paper materials. Students learned about bacteria and other microscopic organisms on the tour and spoke with biologists, engineers and chemists at Toyota about their program.

The Hometown Elementary student teams have demonstrated their solar powered charging station that they designed and built to charge the fuel cell for the solar powered robotic model car that they built. Then the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students demonstrated their fuel-cell, solar powered, robotic model car to the scientists and engineers at the Toyota Motor and Manufacturing plant in Buffalo, West Virginia.

School Contact Information

School Name: Hometown Elementary

Address: P.O. Box 194, Red House, WV 25168

Zip: 25168

School Website: <http://putnamschools.com>

Principal First Name: Carol

Principal Last Name: Graham

Principal Email Address: cjgraham@access.k12.wv.us

Principal Phone Number: 304-586-2395

Lead Applicant Email: cjgraham@access.k12.wv.us

Lead Applicant Phone Number: cjgraham@access.k12.wv.us

Level

Elementary (PK - 5 or 6)

School Type

Public

Private/Independent

Does your school have at least 40 percent of your students receiving free or reduced meals?

Yes

No

Total enrollment: 99

Attendance rate: 99%

Has your school, staff or student body received any awards for environmental or sustainability stewardship/action?

(X) Yes

() No

Please list the awards you have received and the years you received them.

- 1.) Hometown Elementary named #1 School for Energy Savings in Putnam Co. 2008-09
- 2.) Hometown Elementary named #1 School for Electricity, Natural Gas, Water and Sewer Savings August 2009
- 3.) Hometown Elementary receives Energy Achievement Award July 2010
- 4.) Hometown Elementary named #1 School for Cost Avoidance in Putnam County 2010-11
- 5.) Hometown Elementary received Energy Achievement Award March 2011
- 6.) Top Energy Avoidance School in Putnam County Award (\$500.00) November 2012

Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

WV Sustainable Schools Review = 21.5 points out of 30

Element IA: Improved energy conservation/energy-efficient building(s)

Hometown Elementary School shown a 10% cost avoidance from September 2011 through June 2012. This was calculated and issued by the Putnam County Schools Energy Conservation Program Report. Hometown Elementary does meet the requirements and has received county recognition several times for energy avoidance savings. The Energy Avoidance Program has been in effect at Hometown Elementary for 5 years.

Hometown Elementary is assessed regularly by the Energy Education Inc. and Energy Management Consulting Company as to efficient energy usage and cost avoidance for the Putnam County School System.

We currently do not have any of our energy generation from renewable resources, but our school green team is looking into options to purchase credits or install our own.

Element IB: Improved water quality, efficiency, and conservation

The landscape at Hometown Elementary promotes sustainable practices such as water retention and attracting insects and wildlife. The community, volunteers, family members, staff members and students all participate in activities to sustain these activities. Boxwoods,

Bradford Pear, Red Maple, Rhododendron, Butterfly Bush, are all part of the landscape and located with a southern exposure.

Hometown Elementary utilizes water collected from a local stream. Rainwater is also utilized for irrigation from the down spouts and gutter systems on the school building itself. Rain water is also collected and used in the bird baths that the students have incorporated into the landscaping and flower gardens for irrigation.

Rainwater is also utilized for irrigation from the down spouts and gutter systems on the school building itself. Rain water is also collected and used in the bird baths that the students have incorporated into the landscaping and flower gardens for irrigation.

Element IC: Reduced waste production and improved recycling and composting programs

Monthly garbage service in cubic yards (garbage dumpster size(s) x number of collections per month x percentage full when emptied or collected): $8 \text{ cu. Yds.} \times 6 \times 50\% = 24$

Monthly recycling volume in cubic yards (recycling dumpster sizes(s) x number of collections per month x percentage full when emptied or collected): $2 \text{ cu. Yds} \times 4 \times 100\% = 8$

Monthly compostable materials volume(s) in cubic yards (food scrap/food soiled paper dumpster size(s) x number of collections per month x percentage full when emptied or collected): Calculated in the section labeled "A"

Recycling Rate = $((B + C) \div (A + B + C) \times 100)$: $32 + 56 \times 100 = 57.14$

Monthly waste generated per person = $(A/\text{number of students and staff})$: $24 / 117 = .21$

Fifty percent of our school's total office/classroom paper content is post-consumer material, fiber from forests certified as responsibly managed and/or chlorine-free. We also produce no hazardous waste at our school. Our waste production and disposal is measured and tracked by the Putnam County Schools Maintenance Department. Seventy percent of our cleaning products meet green cleaning custodial standards.

Element ID: Use of alternative transportation to, during, and from school

Forty percent of the students that attend Hometown Elementary walk or bike to school thanks to our friendly community with sidewalks and active parents. Our school has implemented

- designated carpool parking stalls
- vehicle loading/unloading areas are at least 25 feet from building air intakes, doors, and window
- Safe Pedestrian Routes to school or Safe Routes to School

Students are encouraged to walk or ride their bikes to school in a fenced off area removed from the main road for the students and families safety. We are also working on purchasing a sign to let the public know that there is a no idling policy in place at Hometown Elementary School.

There are 2 buses that have combined the routes at Hometown Elementary School and another school on the same route. This has saved the county the cost of using separate buses for the two different schools because they have combined the routes but it has saved the energy used to power the buses plus the wear and tear that the buses would incur as a result of have to be used twice to accommodate the same run.

Hometown Elementary School provides students, their parents/guardians and community volunteers with several opportunities to integrate environmental and sustainability education into our school and classrooms. One daily activity that the school has incorporated is recycling paper. Each classroom has a recycling box. Students and staff place all discarded paper into these boxes for pickup. A local recycling company has partnered with Hometown Elementary to collect and recycle the paper at their site in Putnam County. Another opportunity for staff, students, parents/guardians and the community at-large to practice environmental and sustainability best practices are to spend an afternoon weeding, planting, watering and learning about gardening techniques. Our flower and shrub landscaping around the school are weeded, new plantings added and mulched with the weeds being composted into the surrounding lawn as clippings to re-fertilize the surrounding grassland. All liter is collected and disposed of properly and students are fully engaged with adult mentors in the activities of digging, planting watering, mulching and other activities. Annually Hometown Elementary students participate at each grade level in a local recycling contest conducted by the Putnam County Waste Water Management Office. Teachers at Hometown Elementary incorporate reducing, recycling and reusing concepts as a part of the "Being Green," policy at our school.

Pillar II: Improved Health and Wellness

WV Sustainable Schools Review = 18.5 out of 30

Element IIA: An integrated school environmental health program

Not even a gallon of pesticides are used throughout the course of a year. The board of education 1 time each year sprays a small area to control the weed production near the school yard playground.

Our school employs the following practices to minimize exposure to hazardous contaminants?

- Our school prohibits smoking on campus and in public school buses. This is regulated by the Putnam County Board of Education.

- Our school has identified and properly removed sources of elemental mercury and prohibits its purchase and use in the school.
- Our school uses fuel burning appliances and has taken steps to protect occupants from carbon monoxide (CO) with use of CO alarms that meet the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association. Hometown Elementary has 1 fuel burning appliance which is a kitchen stove and we have taken steps to have the use of a CO alarm be installed in the kitchen area where the appliance is used.
- Our school does not have any fuel burning combustion appliances. Our school does have a natural gas burning stove that is used in the kitchen with a pilot light. The pilot light is completely shut off when school is not in session and is only used for food-cooking purposes.
- Our school has annually tested all frequently occupied rooms at or below ground level for radon gas and has fixed and retested all rooms with levels that tested at or above 4 pCi/L OR our school was built with radon resistant construction features and tested to confirm levels below 4 pCi/L. Hometown Elementary meets the requirements set by the Putnam County Central Office and Supervisor of Maintenance Departments.
- Our school has identified any wood playground or other structures that contain chromate copper arsenate and has taken steps to eliminate exposure. The playground at Hometown Elementary does not have any structures that are made out of wood for the children to utilize for play activities.

We have signs posted at our school inside and outside of the school building. None of the staff smokes.

We have not had any tobacco violations at all.

Putnam County Schools has met all State Department of Health and Human Resources requirements concerning Radon Testing. Radon detectors are located on all gas burning heating and cooling units in schools. These detectors are installed, tested and regulated by the Putnam County Schools Maintenance Department. Putnam County has participated in a test that used 44 detectors in a school and the test results reported no violations.

All Putnam County Schools use products provided by the Putnam County Warehouse. The county warehouse maintains and provides each school with the necessary Material Safety Data Sheets to ensure proper care and use.

Our school nurse meets with all necessary personnel involving any students that have asthma. The written plan differs from child to child depending on the severity of the case. Older children may have procedures that may include allowing the child to bring an inhaler to school and back to home.

Humidity is monitored by each classroom individual classroom sensor-thermostat that measures this along with the temperature of the room. The rooms are air-conditioned if needed and the thermostat measures this. This saves energy because all sensors are preset to an exact temperature so no energy is wasted.

Putnam county schools and the central office maintenance department control, inspect and manage any chemicals that are used on a routine basis and only allow those that have been approved from the maintenance department for use at Hometown Elementary school.

Putnam county schools and the central office maintenance department control, inspect and manage any chemicals that are used on a routine basis and only allow those that have been approved from the maintenance department for use at Hometown Elementary school. In addition the ventilation systems are regularly inspected and cleaned to severely reduce the exposure or circulation of dust particles.

Hometown Elementary is inspected on a regular basis at the local school and by county and state inspections to secure that moisture; leaks, condensation and excess humidity are controlled and monitored for removal/repair. Work orders are promptly submitted and maintenance officials promptly repair or replace the areas with moisture or leakages.

Our school had installed an exhaust system to remove airborne contaminants.

Ventilation filters are checked and monitored for cleanliness on a monthly basis as a part of the regular maintenance program of Putnam County Schools. The county maintains this program but work orders are regularly submitted if an operation issue becomes apparent.

Hometown Elementary School is inspected a comprehensive Facility Inspection on a annual basis. Regarding the Facility Inspections Hometown Elementary School has received high marks for maintenance and health standards. A letter from the Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services is given to the principal on an annual basis giving a summary of the inspection with specific details for improvement if any are needed. Hometown Elementary has received excellent reports.

Element IIB: High standards of nutrition, fitness, and outdoor time

All students at Hometown Elementary participate in physical activity (45-50 minutes), Monday through Friday each week. Over half of this time is instructional physical fitness activities and the remainder of the time is free play activities for the children including outside playtime. Students participate in the Healthy Hearts Program, the Cardiac Kids Program and Be Well Nutrition Program sponsored by West Virginia University. The staff participates in the PEIA Wellness Program including monitoring blood cholesterol levels.

Our school employs the following practices:

- Our school participates in the USDA's Healthier School Challenge. Level and year: Hometown Elementary participates in this program with all grade level Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grades.

- Our school participates in a Farm to School program to use local, fresh food. Hometown Elementary School does participate in the Farm to School program.
- Our school has an on-site food garden. We are in the planning stages for implementing a greenhouse to grow plants for our playground beautification projects and food for our students.
- Our students spent at least 120 minutes per week over the past year in school supervised physical education. Hometown Elementary students receive at least 120 minutes per week over the past several years in supervised physical education.
- At least 50% of our students' annual physical education takes place outdoors.
- Health measures are integrated into assessments i.e. FITNESSGRAM, HEAP. Fitness gram has been implemented at Hometown Elementary for the past 7 years.
- At least 50% of our students have participated in the EPA's Sunwise (or equivalent program). All of our students learn about the effects of the sun and our school is a register member of the EPA's Sunwise Program.
- Food purchased by our school is certified as "environmentally preferable" from a local farm. Gritts Farms of Eleanor West Virginia provides the environmentally preferable food for Hometown Elementary School.

Students have an several different play areas during school, after school and on the weekends with their family members to promote wellness not only with the students but also with families and extended families of Hometown Elementary School . There is a football field, a soccer field a sand area for pre-school ond younger children as well as a jungle gym and several other items to encourage exercise while playing.

We have other efforts to improve nutrition, fitness, and overall wellness highlighting innovative or unique practices and partnerships. Hometown Elementary is participating in the “Let’s Move, West Virginia Initiative, Putnam County Schools Physical Education Program, Farm To Table Program, Cardiac Kids Program, Hoops for Hearts Program for adult and student participation. The staff at Hometown Elementary School also participates in the PEIA Wellness Program having their blood taken to determine the factors for health and wellness. In addition to all of these health and nutrition services all students at Hometown Elementary School participate in the “Healthy Snacks Program” from a grant that our school applied for and received from the West Virginia Department of Education Food and Nutrition Program. Hometown Elementary students have been participating in these programs for several years now and the staff at Hometown Elementary has been participating in the PEIA Wellness Program for several years also.

Pillar III: Environmental and Sustainability Education

WV Sustainable Schools Review = 22 out of 35

Element IIIA: Interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems

Our school has an environmental or sustainability literacy requirement. All students are required to complete projects and compete at the county level in reducing, reusing and recycling materials. Hometown Elementary students have been selected at the county level as winners in these contests.

Environmental and sustainability concepts integrated throughout the curriculum. Hometown Elementary students' awareness and knowledge about the environment and sustainability of resources is developed across the disciplines. Students have completed art projects, design projects and writing projects emphasizing taking care of the environment including learning about life cycle skills

Environmental and sustainability concepts are integrated into assessments. The assessments are authentic in nature. For example as to how much money was saved in terms of electricity avoidance and usage in dollars. Hometown Elementary posts information for the public as well as the students to see regarding how the school as a whole is progressing in cost avoidance and savings in electricity usage.

Professional development (PD) opportunities in environmental and sustainability education are provided for all teachers through the WVDE, WVDNR, The Mountain Institute, NASA IV& V, the WV Science Teachers Association, the WV Environmental Education Association, Project WET, and many others. We take advantage of these opportunities to help move our sustainability literacy programs forward. Students and teachers have participated in the West Virginia Putnam County Recycling program for the past 7 years. Students have won awards at each level; early primary and upper grades have won for several years. The upper grade level teachers participated in West Virginia Department of Education Science Kit training during the summer months focusing on science modules containing project-based learning in the physical sciences, botany and microbiology areas (2010, 2011). The West Virginia Department of Natural Resources provided training for teachers and students regarding water management and conservation (Fall 2012).

Our students' meaningful outdoor learning experiences occur at every grade level. All students Pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students participate in EARTH DAY week each year culminating in Earth Day activities including planting flowers and insect friendly plants, bird and wildlife friendly shrubs and trees.

Element IIIB: Use of the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content, knowledge, and thinking skills

Our school use sustainability and the environment as a context for learning science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics thinking skills (STEAM) and content knowledge. One example would be the students designed, built and assembled a fuel-cell solar powered small scale model car. This project based lesson incorporated all aspects of the elementary curriculum, science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics critical thinking skills. Students then went on to develop their communication and presentation skills by demonstrating their project to the engineers and scientists in a real-world, authentic setting at the Toyota Manufacturing Plant in Buffalo, West Virginia.

Our school use sustainability and the environment as a context for learning green technologies and career pathways. The Toyota Motor and Manufacturing Plant of Buffalo, West Virginia plans on selling fuel-cell solar powered vehicles to the public beginning in 2015. Students learned about solar energy and sustainable energy sources when developing their fuel-cell solar powered car. Throughout this project-based lesson they learned about the career requirements of a energy consultant, a production

manager, a design engineer, scientists and communication specialists. All of these are positions that focus on higher level learning at technical and college institutions.

Element IIIC: Development and application of civic engagement knowledge and skills

Outdoor learning is used to teach an array of subjects in contexts, engage the broader community, and develop civic skills. The community Lions Club, the Parent/Teacher Organization, the Toyota Motor and Manufacturing Plant and several other community organizations have all been involved in helping students understand the importance of giving back to others and the community at large as they work on various plant and garden projects. These organizations help instill responsibility and accountability in students as they work on authentic, real-life engaging outdoor projects. Adults and students work side by side to establish a community pride and school pride. The students learn from these adults the importance of doing a job well and seeing a job through which are both skills that will not only help a child become civic-minded as they grow older but also help them to mentor younger students.

Students' civic/community engagement projects integrating environment and sustainability topics are common at Hometown Elementary. They observed insects, frogs and turtles in and about the area and discovered that many animals are sustained by water and the importance of water as a resource. Parents and community volunteers helped the children with the project engaging students not only in the project (bird bath), but integrated the environment and the importance of water sustainability and conservation.

Our partnerships with local academic, business, government, nonprofit and informal science institutions help advance our school, other schools (especially schools with fewer resources) and the greater community toward the 3 Pillars. The West Virginia Department of Education named Hometown Elementary as a Innovation Zone and has partnered with the Hometown Elementary Robotics program and Toyota Motor and Manufacturing business. This partnership has advanced the students at Hometown Elementary school in becoming much more career oriented and academic-minded in the sciences and mathematics areas. There are less than two dozen Innovation Zones awarded by the WV Department of Education, so this is a true honor and reflects the merit of our programs.

This is the front entrance to Hometown Elementary School. Near the bottom of the picture you can see some of the plants that the children, parent volunteers and community have planted to attract butterflies and pollinating insects. The students, staff, parent volunteers and community members have maintained these gardens at Hometown Elementary for the past 10 years.



The newspaper article below highlights the kindergarten students and teachers that won the West Virginia Film Festival Competition for the documentary that they created highlighting the town of Hometown, West Virginia. The students went on a fact finding mission with their clipboards in tow on a walking field trip of the town of Hometown. Students noted the trees, the plants and the gardens of the town as well as the construction and locations of the business and homes with the intent of building the town on a small scale from reclaimed and recycled scraps of paper and cardboard in the classroom. The students displayed their town "Our Town," in the school lobby and also presented their project to their parents and the community. Lastly they created the film documentary.

charges of racketeering, drug peddling, robbery, violent assaults, drug trafficking— Locally, the indictment mentioned the had been arrested as of Tuesday afternoon. Each appeared before judges in



Bonny Rushbrook, *The Putnam Herald*

Hometown Elementary School kindergartners (now in first grade) won an award for their film titled "Our Town." Pictured are, from left, front row: Jessica Reynolds, Haley Shue, Cierrasa Goe, Morgan Gillispie, Ernie Harper, Andrew Scutlock, Julie Wright, Abby Kapp; back row, teacher Lura Fisher, Ryan Cox, Joey Ellis, Bryson Barnett and kindergarten aide Debbie Arthur. Students who participated but are not pictured include April Douglas, Zachary Booth and Jeremy Martin.

Kindergartners win film competition

By BONNY RUSHBROOK
The Putnam Herald

HOMETOWN, W.Va. — Famed movie director Stephen Spielberg should consider placing a guard on his legendary director's chair over the next couple of decades, because someday he might have some real competition — and that competition lives right here in Putnam County.

However, it might cause him to breathe easier to know his competitors are currently only in the first grade, where they are still busy learning to read and write.

Last spring, the 14 students of Lura Fisher's kindergarten class at Hometown Elementary started a class project that would augment their reading series. Just as Fisher had done the year before, she challenged her students to build a replica of their town. The results were so significant, Principal Carol Graham asked them to film a documentary about their project and enter it in a contest sponsored by the West Virginia International Film Festival Competition that Graham had seen online.

In late June, after school was out for the summer, Fisher learned her students had won first place in the kindergarten-through-eighth-grade division for their documentary titled "Our Town." The class was awarded a plaque, certificates, and a \$100 check for classroom supplies.

Please see **FILM/2A**

Winfield Middle hosts guest teacher from China

The Putnam Herald

WINFIELD — Putnam County Schools have welcomed back native a Mandarin-speaking teacher for the 2009-10 school year as part of the Chinese Guest Teacher Program. Guozha Chen has returned for her second year in Winfield, this time teaching Chinese culture and language in seventh- and eighth-grade students at Winfield Middle.

The Chinese Guest Teacher Program is sponsored by Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters, in partnership with the College Board. The program represents a unique opportunity for students and educators to learn Chinese and learn about China from a native speaker. In addition, guest teachers assist with curriculum development, student recruitment and for cultural enrichment activities.

"We are very excited to be able to offer Chinese to our students," Tom Tull, Middle School director for Putnam County Schools, said in a press release. "There are several benefits for doing so: our students are expanding their understanding of their world, they are able to compare our culture to the Chinese culture, and they are motivated to learn more. This experience may be a springboard for some students to aspire to occupations that they never would have considered previously. And they are learning that learning is fun."

For more information about College Board Chinese Language and Culture Initiatives, visit www.collegeboard.com/412chinese. For more information, visit www.collegeboard.com/412chinese.

So
pl
cit
m

By JL
The Pu
HUT
Pack
City C
the 14
regula
meets
The S
govern
toward
badge
Dues
of the
Edwan
pay Ch
Funds
a mot
by vot
Bolan
Coun
ed agn
memb
Reggie
A \$1
to the
money
grants
used in
in Sch
was ab
voting
in Oct
■ A
Lane, 3
Avenue
were in
West V
ted the
and th
council
■ A
Oct. 21
ing the
was ma
of a lan
campus
on the
ect.
■ A
read be
ricane
During
new ha
tem wa
over a
agree
the cit
line, it
any un
irrigati
ment is

Hometown Elementary students on a field trip to the Toyota Motor and Manufacturing Plant in Buffalo, West Virginia to learn about the zero waste program that the Toyota plant has implemented both in water conservation and reclamation and recycling plastic and paper materials. Students learned about bacteria and other microscopic organisms on the tour and spoke with biologists, engineers and chemists at Toyota about their program.



Image 4

Hometown Elementary students speaking with Toyota Motor and Manufacturing Plant engineers and scientists during their field trip to the Toyota, Buffalo, West Virginia Manufacturing Plant to study and learn the procedures at Toyota on water conservation , reclamation and the recycling program.



The Hometown Elementary student teams are demonstrating their solar powered charging station that they designed and built to charge the fuel cell for the solar powered robotic model car that they built and demonstrated to the scientists and engineers at the Toyota Motor and Manufacturing plant in Buffalo, West Virginia.



Video This video highlights Hometown Elementary students speaking about how they recycle, reduce and reuse materials and resources at their homes. The student interviews were a part of the video featuring Hometown Elementary as an applicant for West Virginia Sustainable Schools and West Virginia Environment Matters.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9P1W1Sr-4rc>