



2014-2015 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 Pre-K-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 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.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools 2014-2015

Charter Title I Magnet Private Independent

Name of Principal: Mr. John S. Farber, Head of School

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

Official School Name: Old Trail School

(As it should appear on an award)

Official School Name Mailing Address: 2315 Ira Rd., PO Box 827, Bath OH 44210

(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

County: Summit State School Code Number *: N/A

Telephone: 330-666-1118 Fax: 330-666-2320

Web site/URL: www.oldtrail.org E-mail: jmiller@oldtrail.org

*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.

Date: 1/18/2015

(Principal's Signature)

Name of Superintendent: n/a

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



District Name: n/a

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

(Superintendent's Signature) Date:

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: Ohio Department of Education

Name of Nominating Authority: Ms. Charlotte Jones-Ward
(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.

Charlotte Jones-Ward Date: January 29, 2015
(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION OF NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Provide a coherent "snapshot" that describes how your school is representative of your jurisdiction's highest achieving green school efforts. Summarize your strengths and accomplishments in all three Pillars and nine Elements. Then, include documentation and concrete examples for work in every Pillar and Element.

Old Trail School is a co-educational independent day school for 520 students in early childhood through grade eight. Located in the heart of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Old Trail School has a long history of environmental sustainability initiatives that embody our mission of providing a comprehensive curriculum with a commitment to academic excellence, service learning and global sustainability.

Our School has created a model for school environmental sustainability programs, focusing on five major components: facility, food, operations, recycling and water. Each of these is continuously evaluated by our administration with a goal of improvement and direct connection to our curriculum. We are striving to reduce our carbon footprint while introducing students to their natural world through hands-on, collaborative science lessons, gardening, and habitat restoration.

Our 62-acre campus allows us to focus on location-based education. We take advantage of our unique surroundings by encouraging our students, families, faculty, and staff to take time to examine and explore the outdoors, using our campus as an environmental learning center.

Old Trail School has formed partnerships with a number of different organizations including: Cuyahoga Valley national Park, Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Countryside Conservancy, Hattie Larlham Services for Adults and Children with Developmental Disabilities, Eco Schools, and shortly Energy Star Portfolio Manager. The Cuyahoga Valley national Park is a wonderful neighbor and partner of ours in a variety of programs we have implemented at the School. Hattie Larlham Services manages our working organic farm on campus (Hatti Gardens.)

They provide farming instruction and service opportunities for our students who have hands-on experiences working on the



farm with their staff and their clients.

Old Trail has been fortunate to be the recipient of four major environmental sustainability awards. In 2010, Old Trail School's Head of School (John Farber) was recognized as a Champion of Sustainability by Entrepreneurs for Sustainability (E4S) in Cleveland, Ohio. One of six award recipients, Farber was selected from a pool of 47 organizations in Northeast Ohio. The award recognizes individuals who implement and inspire groundbreaking sustainability initiatives in their businesses and organizations. Also in 2010, the School was honored at the Green Gala presented by the Ohio Environmental Council in Columbus, Ohio. The School received one of the Green Jobs Innovation Awards for its efforts to become more environmentally sustainable emphasizing its incorporation of location in Cuyahoga Valley National Park as part of the curriculum.

In October 2014, Old Trail School received a Summit of Sustainability Award presented by The City of Akron, Summit County, the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce and Keep Akron Beautiful/Greenprint for Akron. These Awards recognize Summit County businesses, nonprofit and community organizations, and public sector (schools, government) for their efforts in initiating green, environmentally-friendly practices. This is the third year for the countywide awards program that showcases the best examples of commercial energy efficiency, waste reduction, water conservation and green purchasing. Here is a link to the School's video shown at the awards program (<http://tinyurl.com/nmu2f4q>.)

SUBMISSION

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.

OHIO GREEN RIBBON SCHOOL APPLICATION FORM

Part One:

School: Old Trail School

District: Independent School in Bath, Ohio

Contact person(s): Julie Miller (Communications Director) or John Farber (Head of School)

Email: jmiller@oldtrail.org or jfarber@oldtrail.org Phone: 330.666.1118

Part Two: Summary narrative

Provide an 800-word maximum narrative describing your school or district's efforts to reduce environmental impact and operating costs; improve students' and staff members' health; and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. Insert narrative here:

Old Trail School is a co-educational independent day school for 520 students in early childhood through grade eight. Located in the heart of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Old Trail School has a long history of environmental sustainability initiatives that embody our mission of providing a comprehensive curriculum with a commitment to academic excellence, service learning and global sustainability.

Our School has created a [model for school environmental sustainability programs](#), focusing on five major components: facility, food, operations, recycling and water. Each of these is continuously evaluated by our administration with a goal of improvement and direct connection to our curriculum. We are striving to reduce our carbon footprint while introducing students to their natural world through hands-on, collaborative science lessons, gardening, and habitat restoration.

Our 62-acre campus allows us to focus on location-based education. We take advantage of our unique surroundings by encouraging our students, families, faculty, and staff to take time to examine and explore the outdoors, using our campus as an environmental learning center.

Old Trail School has formed partnerships with a number of different organizations including: Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Countryside Conservancy, Hattie Larlham Services for Adults and Children with Developmental Disabilities, Eco Schools, and shortly Energy Star Portfolio Manager. The Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a wonderful neighbor and partner of ours in a variety of programs we have implemented at the School. Hattie Larlham Services manages our working organic farm on campus (Hattie's Gardens.) They provide farming instruction and service opportunities for our students who have hands-on experiences working on the farm with their staff and their clients.

Grades 4-8 have had extensive experience working with one of our grade four teachers in overseeing our work with Eco Schools. This is a hands-on opportunity for students on this "Green Team" to become familiar with a variety of sustainability initiatives and carefully monitor the work we have been doing in this regard. The Green Team is responsible for tracking activities and savings that have been achieved by the School in these sustainability efforts. Old Trail School is just beginning to use the Energy Star Portfolio Management System and we look forward to posting exciting results in the near future.

We dedicated an entire issue of our *Old Trail School Magazine* to sustainability on our campus and in the homes of our students. We asked members of our community (parents, alumni, etc.) to tell us about how they embrace sustainability. Activities include: garden club memberships, solar installations, farming, organic perfume creation, wildlife rehabilitation and much more (pdf of this issue is attached to this application).

Old Trail has been fortunate to be the recipient for four major environmental sustainability awards. In 2010, Old Trail School's Head of School (John Farber) was recognized as a Champion of Sustainability by Entrepreneurs for Sustainability (E4S) in Cleveland, Ohio. One of six award recipients, Farber was selected from a pool of 47 organizations in Northeast Ohio. The Award recognizes individuals who implement and inspire groundbreaking sustainability initiatives in their businesses and organizations. Also in 2010, the School was honored at the Green Gala presented by the Ohio Environmental Council in Columbus, Ohio. The School received one of the Green Jobs Innovation Awards for its efforts to become more environmentally sustainable emphasizing its incorporation of location in Cuyahoga Valley National Park as part of the curriculum.

In 2011, Old Trail School was named to the list of Employers Resource Council (ERC) Northcoast 99 Awards for Best Employer and was also honored as the recipient of the organization's prestigious Award for Sustainability. In selecting Old Trail School for this prestigious award for Sustainability, ERC was impressed with the school-wide commitment to sustainable practices.

In October 2014, Old Trail School received a Summit of Sustainability Award presented by The City of Akron, Summit County, the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce and Keep Akron Beautiful/Greenprint for Akron. These Awards recognize Summit County businesses, nonprofit and community organizations, and public sector (schools, government) for their efforts in initiating green, environmentally-friendly practices. This is the third year for the countywide awards program that showcases the best examples of commercial energy efficiency, waste reduction, water conservation and green purchasing. Here is a link to the School's video shown at the awards program (<http://tinyurl.com/nmu2f4g>.)

Old Trail School was one of the Summit County tour locations for the 12th annual Green Energy Ohio (GEO) Tour on Saturday, October 4, 2014. GEO is the Ohio Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society. This free, statewide event provides a unique opportunity for people to visit and talk with individuals and organizations that work with clean energy technologies. The School will also host the Keep Akron Beautiful board meeting in May 2015 and has been asked to host other environmental, community and government groups.

Part Three: PILLAR ONE: Net zero environmental impact

Provide a 1,500-word maximum narrative of how your school or district is progressing toward elimination of GHG emissions and waste as well as water and energy conservation. (Element 1A: Zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions) **Insert Narrative Here:**

Old Trail School is in the process of obtaining the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Certification. We hope to have this within the next 8-12 months. Old Trail School utilizes Niagara Framework software which helps regulate the temperature of the buildings throughout the entire campus. In that the age of the School's buildings ranges from 45 years-old to 3 years-old, this relatively open-source software platform integrates into a unified platform our diverse systems and devices regardless of age or manufacturer, or communication protocol. This system uses the School's IT network so our HVAC can be easily managed and controlled in real time over the Internet using a standard web browser.

This control enhancement creates significant energy savings because the system manager demands less heating or cooling, thereby reducing energy consumption when rooms are unoccupied on evenings, weekend and holidays.

The School has recently installed energy efficient windows and lighting throughout the entire campus. Most all incandescent bulbs and floodlights, not to mention T12 fluorescent light bulbs, have been replaced with compact fluorescent lamps, T8 bulbs, and now LED bulbs. This upgrading process has resulted in energy performance payback which has moderated the rate of increase in our electricity usage. Because of our expansive campus in multiple-age

buildings, we have experienced energy savings as a result of this initiative. Many standard classroom or office light switches have been replaced with motion sensors.

Classroom or office thermostats have been almost universally replaced with programmable thermostats. As is the case with lamp replacement, HVAC control upgrades have resulted in energy and cost savings in a relatively short timeframe. This process has continued and all of the School's thermostats have been updated to either programmable or Niagara integrated HVAC automation system, giving the School a new level of control.

The School's buildings sit on a north-to-south axis with most classroom and office windows facing to the east or west, allow the use of ambient sunshine which is often noted by visitors; the inside environment is bright, useful and inviting, even with lighting turned off. Many teachers and staff members eschew their overhead lighting, especially on sunny days, to use the room without using electric lighting. The School's relatively new athletic facility was built in 2010. Sustainable practices were incorporated into many facets of the design and construction process. Within that facility, day lighting is used to maximize lighting efficiencies. In this building, both windows at the top perimeter of the wall structures, and 18 additional skylights provide daytime lighting in the building. This allows the School to use the building without turning on any lights for most if not all of the school day. The building has light sensors that automatically turn on and off throughout the hallways in the entire facility. The School is forced to use electric lighting in this area only at night and during the dark days of winter when students are in physical education classes.

A "Turn off the Lights Program," led by students who engage other students, faculty, staff and volunteers to become more conscientious about not leaving lights turned on when no one is in the room, is actively in place. The School celebrates the tenacity of the students, whose campaign captures attention by engaging the entire community to turn off lights in rooms and major spaces of the School when they are no longer in use.

Old Trail School recently began installing, on campus property, a 320 kW solar array that will produce 9,500,000 kW over its 30-year life span. This array is slated to reduce Old Trail's School's electrical fossil fuel consumption by one third. The installation is scheduled to be completed by mid-December 2014.

In addition to these energy savings, the School has also installed insulated windows throughout the entire physical plant. The School's Maintenance Department purchases and uses only low VOC paint to maintain upkeep of the buildings; painting contractors also adhere to the School's initiative. Old Trail is in the process of finalizing a Green Purchasing Policy. This will incorporate policies for energy and water efficient products, housekeeping supplies, as well as all new furniture purchases. This policy will exceed all manufacturers' association levels for an eco label. Water efficient products are universally in place on campus, as detailed in Part 4 of this application.

With the building of the athletic facility in 2010 Old Trail School needed to increase its heating capacity. To that end, the School installed one 97% efficient DeDietrich water boiler, and included in its pressurized hot water circulation loop an existing air-handler for the 1969 era Natatorium. This boiler utilizes a mechanically-controlled louver to adjust the temperature and ventilation of the boiler's space.

This damper is exceptional for reducing the amount of heat loss/gain when the boiler is not operating to capacity. This DeDietrich high efficiency water boiler worked in conjunction with the School's existing 1960's era Kewanee Scotch central boiler system until 2012.

In that summer, two new AERCO Benchmark 2.0 (BMK 2.0LN) low NOx water boilers were installed, in a modular arrangement, including the DeDietrich, to replace the behemoth Kewanees that had been installed in 1967 when the original school buildings were constructed. To minimize emissions, these boilers are each fitted with a low NOx burner whose emissions will consistently measure <30 ppm of NOx corrected to 3% excess oxygen at all firing rates. These units are certified by the SCAQMD and TCEQ in their class. In addition these boilers' controls are integrated into the the Schools facility-wide Niagra Energy Management System. This AERCO Benchmark installation included significant

asbestos abatement, rendering the entire boiler room (including these three hot water heat boilers and the kitchen's hot water supply boiler) asbestos-free.

During the four months of December through March 2008-10, Old Trail School averaged burning 12,790 MCF of natural gas per month. Conversely, after both boiler installation were completed the same four months of December through March of 2012-14 (including the uncommonly frigid winter of 2013-14), showed Old Trail School burning only 1,225 MCF of natural gas, a ten-fold reduction of gas usage for a two year period only just five years hence.

With this significant reduction of natural gas use, the saving generated by this conservation is equal to at least 1/3 of the School's total energy costs, obviously resulting in a dramatic energy cost savings for the Organization.

Electricity savings are more difficult to quantify. The school has been vigilant in upgrading lighting to T8 fluorescents, and now LEDs, but there are bigger demands in our School for electricity. Looking at average monthly use from May through October in 2006-2008, the School averaged using 74,281 KWH/month. During the same months in 2011-13 the School averaged using 99,673 KWH/month. Looking at the other six months (Nov. through April) shows a slightly less disparate difference, with the 2011-13 time-range demonstrating 76,033 KWH/month use and the 2011-13 time-range showing 90,183 KWH/month use.

Even with heightened conservation practices, the explosion of wireless networking, coupled with the adoption of an initiative for a computer for every student in grades 3-8 has worked at cross-purposes to electricity conservation. In addition, several new facility upgrades, beginning in 2004 have finally made the entire campus an air-conditioned environment. Finally, two Kone elevators, the first one being not particularly efficient, have been installed to meet our ADA requirements. It should be noted that the School's facilities do get significant daily use through the entire summer season, and air conditioning gets high use during the academic year in the seasons from April through June and August through October.

Obviously we are using more electricity, but we are also offering a far different product, including one device for each student, and air-conditioning in the summertime to support a robust and growing revenue-producing program. We will be interested to see how more LED lighting, more perspicuous all-campus energy management, and the addition of the 320 KW solar arrays will impact warm-weather electricity use.

Old Trail School hired Doty & Miller Architects of Cleveland, Ohio, in 2011. This firm specializes in sustainability projects and consulting. Doty & Miller Architects provided to the School recommendations for increasing organizational sustainability practices and in initiating School improvements focused primarily on energy efficiencies. In this audit, Doty & Miller made many commendations of the School's current practices. In addition, a number of recommendations were offered, that with time and resources will be accomplished, toward making the School even more energy efficient.

Part Four: Element 1B: Improved water quality, efficiency and conservation.

Provide a 500-word maximum narrative of how your school or district is progressing toward water conservation. Insert Narrative Here:

Old Trail School takes water quality, efficiency and conservation very seriously. When the School was faced with replacing an antiquated septic system in 2008, we took the bold step of instead installing a Living Machine to treat the School's wastewater.

The Living Machine is an onsite wastewater cleansing system that has been functioning beautifully and exceeding all EPA standards since its completion in 2008. Our regional Northeast Ohio EPA Office can testify to the fact that while experimental in nature, our Living Machine is functioning beautifully and at very little operational cost. It cleans all of the School's wastewater in a 36-hour programmable timeframe. This is completely accomplished through the use of natural resources including native plant species' root systems and natural bacteria. Wastewater flows through three

very different types of wetlands, both indoor and outdoor before the clean water ultimately is deposited into a tributary that flows to the Cuyahoga River.

The Living Machine system is housed in a greenhouse (our Living Classroom) and serves as a laboratory for our students as well as other schools and organizations in our region. Our students perform water quality experiments and use a demonstration pond as part of their scientific journey. The Living Machine serves as a wonderful local and regional resource to demonstrate how we can use our environment to enhance operational systems and facilities.

One hundred percent of Old Trail School's facilities have low-flow fixtures, including faucets, toilets, and sinks. When we built the incredibly efficient Living Machine to manage all of the School's wastewater treatment, we also did an extensive audit of all plumbing fixtures and went to 100% low flush toilets and automatic shut off valves for our faucets and sinks. This endeavor has saved the School 414,960 gallons of water since 2008, which would otherwise been pumped from the School's artisan well.

Old Trail has conducted multiple audits of facilities and irrigation systems to make sure we are free of significant water leaks and have identified many opportunities for cost savings. We have conducted three smoke tests of all of our water and sewage lines and find them to be very secure. All of our outdoor landscape consists of water efficient and native species plant choices. We have a number of swales and water retention systems in place here on campus and all of those are planted with native species. In addition, the Living Machine System has two outdoor native wetlands.

We have our own artisan well for drinking water, that well is extremely well protected and is tested five days a week throughout the entire year. We have a program in place to control lead in our drinking water and all of our tapped faucets and water fountains used for drinking are cleaned on a daily basis to reduce possible bacterial and other contamination.

Part Five: 1C: Reduced waste production.

Provide a 500-word maximum narrative of how your school or district is working toward elimination of all solid or hazardous waste through, reduced consumption, reuse practices and recycling. Insert Narrative Here:

Old Trail School actively engages the entire community in waste reduction and recycling. The Grade Six advisory project is the regular and routine emptying of classroom and office paper bins. Old Trail partners with River Valley Recycling to make the paper recycling dumpster available for these volunteer students, and the entire community. Although many local communities provide office and newspaper recycling, some do not. For those of our families who do not have such a service, parents will bring their office and home items to Old Trail School including: telephone books, office paper, textbooks and other paper "trash" collected by our housekeeping team. The School recycled 18,000 pounds of paper in 2013. From 2008 to August 2014, 118,542 pounds of paper has been recycled. Old Trail School's trash hauler provides an additional dumpster for corrugated cardboard, glass, metal and plastic recycling. The housekeeping staff separates cardboard, glass, metal and plastic for this dumpster, so those materials will not find their way into the landfill.

Old Trail School also recycles household batteries for the School and for families who bring their spent household batteries to us. The School demonstrates a real commitment by paying the bucket price for recycling these batteries. We do so to help reinforce to the community that these spent batteries should not make their way into the landfill waste stream. The School also covers the cost of discarding fluorescent bulbs and we publicize the Summit County Health Department's initiative to properly dispose of unused medicine (a joint venture of the health department and local law enforcement.)

We partner with Reworks to recycle compostable waste, mostly from food service and lunch waste, which is then turned into high quality, competitively-priced materials for site finishing, landscaping, and property management. Students at all grade levels participate in our composting program in classrooms and in the main dining room.

Old Trail School also assures there are always empty printer cartridge mailers for families to use. Grade eight students support the Williard Food Pantry, a local food redistribution charity. Students host monthly fundraising “coffee houses” and have a centrally located bin to collect plastic grocery bags for the pantry’s food distribution. Students and families are also encouraged to donate household items (furniture, kitchen items, bedding, etc.) and clothing to the School’s collection efforts on behalf of the International Institute of Akron. The Institute provides programs and services to more than 10,000 immigrants and 500 refugees in the region each year. The Institute also works to promote public awareness about the value of ethnic diversity and to encourage international communication.

Old Trail produces a large and useful lost and found. Parent and staff volunteers periodically weed this collection, and launder and deliver useful items to Good Neighbors which seeks to fairly re-distribute materials to less fortunate citizens of the larger public community. We do this because Old Trail School takes seriously the concept of “private school for the public good,” extending ourselves in many ways into the broader Akron/Summit County community.

Part Six: Element 1D: Use of alternative transportation to, during and from school.

Provide a 500-word maximum narrative of how your school or district is working toward alternative transportation or upgrading current modes of transportation. Insert Narrative Here:

Old Trail School is located in the heart of Cuyahoga Valley National Park and is not near any forms of public transportation (bus, train) nor are their sidewalks leading to our campus. As a result, 100 percent of Old Trail School employees and students are transported to School via cars, buses (both those owned by our School and public school system buses), or carpools. We are fortunate that the State of Ohio provides school bus transportation for us and we are currently served by eight surrounding school districts that transport approximately one-third of our students to and from school each day.

In addition, Old Trail School owns seven school buses and vans and we operate our own transportation system, which transports approximately 15% of our student body. Carpools are encouraged and the School goes to great lengths to put help establish car pools when requested by current families. We are in the process of exploring an online system to coordinate carpools for families and will hope to implement this in the fall of 2015.

We have a very active and ongoing “No Idling” policy that was created as a result of a student initiative more than seven years ago. Numerous signs are posted near all vehicle areas and each year, our students create new signs and place them in our carpool areas at our pick up and drop off locations. These signs remind our families to turn their engines off while sitting and idling in the car pool line to pick up or drop off children. Our entire bus fleet adheres to our no idling policy and all of our vehicle loading and unloading areas are at least 25-30 feet away from all buildings and far removed from intake areas for ventilation systems.

Our School transportation fleet is very efficient and is inspected bi-annually by the State of Ohio. We are currently in the process of researching better and more energy efficient vehicles to be used by the School in our transportation program. We are always looking new solutions to reduce emissions.

Old Trail School students are fortunate to participate in numerous field trip experiences throughout the school year (and summer camp as well). Detailed planning and analysis are used to plot the best, most direct routes for our drivers to achieve the best fuel efficiency. Drivers stay at the field trip locations with the students and are encouraged to participate in the learning experiences. We also review bus capacities to determine which vehicles to use for which trips so we maintain efficiency and expenses. We also make every effort to coordinate team sport schedules in order to transport more than one team at a time (i.e. soccer and field hockey) to other schools.

Our transportation supervisor is currently reviewing our routes to determine if we can add additional neighborhoods or areas to reduce the number of parents transporting students while not increasing our expenses. Our goal is to add at least three new areas by fall 2015.

Part Seven: PILLAR TWO: Net positive impact on student and staff health

2A: An integrated school/district environmental health program based on an operations and facility-wide environmental management system that considers student and staff health and safety in all practices related to design, construction, renovation, operations and maintenance of schools and grounds.

Provide a 1,500-word maximum narrative of how your school or district is progressing toward improving the quality of health for students and staff. Insert Narrative Here:

Old Trail School is committed to student and employee health and wellness and has numerous programs and initiatives that demonstrate this important goal.

The School employs five full-time physical education teachers who oversee a comprehensive physical education program both indoors and outdoors on our campus. Students participate in physical outdoor activity every month of the school year including athletics, play or sledding on our renowned hills. Activities and coursework is designed to develop students' physical and mental health. Instruction is appropriately sequenced so that students gain appreciation for life-long physical fitness by engaging in physical activity on a regular basis.

The physical education curriculum helps students improve their self-confidence based on their mastery of skills and concepts. "Movement" is the theme of all physical education lessons. New and exciting activities are incorporated into the program each year. Each winter, students in grades one through five strive to achieve entrance into the "Mile Club." This entails swimming laps to equal one mile and reporting their progress to the teachers. The School's swimming stresses sequential skill development using the American Red Cross certification requirements.

Our middle school health curriculum included units on cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility and nutrition. Once students reach grades seven and eight, they are able to select their own physical education class electives each season. The in-school part of their chosen sport serves as practice and instruction time and interscholastic competition with other area middle schools occurs after school. Competitive sports include: basketball, cross country, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis and track. There are also physical education elective options for students who do not wish to participate in competitive sports that include: badminton, cycling, fencing, international games, outdoor games, step aerobics, table tennis and water games. The School also has an extracurricular Ski Club for students in grades five through eight during the winter months.

Students use pedometers and are taught how to monitor their heart rates as early as kindergarten by splitting classes into smaller groups for individual instruction. Grade eight students receive American Red Cross CPR/Lifesaving training as part of their annual coursework. Grade eight students also spend 12 sessions studying "healthy choices" in a program developed specifically for our students entitled "Use Your Head: Mind Your Brain." This program covers brain basics, the dangers of drug use, indicators and maintenance of healthy relationships, understanding mental health issues and stress management. The culminating activity for this course each year is a panel comprised of Old Trail School alumni who are college students. These young adults offer advice to the students about dealing with many of the challenges that they may encounter in high school and beyond.

Maintaining and improving employee health and wellness is an important School goal. The School is a member of the Independent Schools Benefits Consortium (ISBC) and provides in-person and on-line support for monitoring health and physical activity. Each year, employees complete a "Good Health Questionnaire" as part of the School's health insurance benefit re-enrollment process. Thanks to our ongoing focus on maintaining healthy lifestyles, our benefit premiums have remained very low. The School provides an on-site employee wellness center that features treadmills, elliptical machines, free weights, yoga mats and more. Employees are also encouraged to use one of the School's two gymnasiums, swimming pool, tennis courts and hiking/biking paths to be active when they are on campus.

The School has a Weight Watchers at Work group that is primarily subsidized by the School for employees interested in wellness and weight loss/management. Currently this group is comprised of 25 employees that have a combined weight loss of more than 150 pounds since the beginning of this school year. This group gathers in the morning once a week in a

meeting room at the School and employees are encouraged to attend. Several other employee wellness activities are sponsored by the School including weekly yoga lessons and chair massages.

The School's Support Services staff provides assessment, counseling, guidance, and referral services that are designed to facilitate optimal adjustment, comfort and success for members of the Old Trail School community. This is accomplished through the promotion of wellness-promotion and health-enhancement. Support Services staff members provide educational presentations to faculty, parents and students about a variety of learning and health-oriented topics. Services provided include: psycho-educational assessment, counseling, parent guidance, crisis intervention, liaison and referral, teacher consultation and conflict resolution. These services are performed by two full-time school psychologists, learning specialists and a speech-language pathologist.

Old Trail School employs a full-time school nurse who is part of the Akron Children's Hospital School Health system. Our nurse is available all day each school day and during our summer camp. She is primarily responsible for treating students for illnesses and injuries that occur during the school day. She also communicates regularly with employees about current health issues and is a wonderful resource for parents. She educates parents about best practices for treating and preventing the spread of many childhood illnesses.

Old Trail School maintains an integrated pest management system and plan that includes pesticide applications and any notifications that are required. We do prohibit children from entering the pesticide area for more than nine hours following any application and we do not use chemical fertilizers on grassy areas. When mowing, we also have established some "no mowing" areas to reduce emissions and we use mulching mowers so that the grass does not need to be collected, bagged and placed into the School's dumpsters. Because of our location in Cuyahoga Valley National Park our campus is filled with trees and if trees need to be sprayed we do so on weekends to avoid any contact with our students, employees or families. We maintain summaries of pesticide applications and have copies of labels. We also use green products whenever possible in these applications.

Old Trail School has several exhaust systems on campus, including a double-sided fume hood for our two major science laboratories. We do not have large printing facilities or chemical storage rooms on campus, so those are not required. We have an installed an energy recover ventilation system - Energy Recover Ventilator (ERV) that is located on the top of one of our original school buildings. This system brings in fresh air and recovers heating and cooling from the conditioned air.

All of our contaminant controls are in place and have been updated including radon and carbon monoxide (primarily emanating from the stove and our kitchen facility.) These controls are all managed regularly. Old Trail School has removed all mercury and asbestos from our campus. All dangerous chemicals, thermometers, gauges, and other devices has been removed from the campus for some time, and all of our wooden playground equipment was replaced six years ago with new and updated playground structures, none of which contain chromate copper arsenate.

Old Trail School is a smoke-free campus and the signage is very clear. The campus is routinely checked for moisture control and is currently free of mold and water leakage. We regularly check for any kind of water damage and treat it immediately with proper solutions when necessary.

All of the School's broadloom carpet has been replaced by carpet tiles. We use Interface carpet tiles that are certified by the Carpet and Rug Institute's (CRI) Green Label Plus Program. Interface offers carpet with high recycle content and is certified by a third party to have reduced emissions. This carpet program is run throughout the entire school, classrooms and hallways included. In addition to being an energy efficient product, it has helped keep the school warmer during colder months and quieter throughout the entire school year. The process of carpeting the entire school has also cut down significantly on the use of motorized equipment by our housekeeping staff and potentially dangerous chemicals of cleaning the tile floor beneath. There has also been a substantial operational cost savings during the last seven years in which this has been in place.

Part Eight: 2B: High standards of nutrition, fitness and quantity of quality outdoor time for both students and staff.

Provide an 800-word maximum narrative of how your school or district is progressing toward improving the physical health for students and staff. Insert Narrative Here:

Old Trail School is proud of our comprehensive physical education and athletics program. We have five full-time physical education teachers that provide a comprehensive physical education program for all students. This includes approximately 3.5 hours per week of active time for students. In addition to our athletic center, we also have an indoor swimming pool that we use for both instructional and recreational swimming. Because our School is located on 62 acres we are able to utilize outdoor space that includes: four full-size athletic fields and six tennis courts. In addition, we use the National Park trails for our cross-country and bicycling programs. Our middle school students (Grade 6-8) choose from a variety of athletic electives including: soccer, field hockey, cross country, tennis, basketball, swimming, track and field, lacrosse, bicycling, step aerobics and fencing. In addition to instructional programs during the school day, many of these programs are offered on an interscholastic basis, competing against both public and private schools in the region.

In addition to our athletic facilities, we have an outdoor amphitheater that is used for classes. Science teachers take students outside at every opportunity throughout all seasons to explore and use our campus as an outdoor classroom.

Old Trail School is proud to say that our lunch program is unparalleled among schools in this region and throughout the state. We have contracted with Metz Food Service since 2005 and we provide delicious, healthy lunches each day to 520 students and 75 employees. Metz has been a great partner and is very responsive to our goals of providing healthy, tasty items that are environmentally sustainable. Metz provides us with an executive chef who oversees a team that creates fresh items each day. We are proud to say that nearly 100% of the produce used in our kitchen is grown on campus as part of our partnership with Hattie's Gardens. Students are involved in planting much of the food that is used in our kitchen and excitement surrounds lunch times on many occasions as students recognize they are actually eating some of the food that they planted, harvested and prepared. One hundred percent of the School's food purchases are certified as environmentally preferable. We purchase fair trade items whenever possible and 100% of our food is grown and processed within 200 miles, usually much closer to the School.

Our Edible Education Program has become an established part of our curriculum from students in our Early Childhood Program (age 2+) through grade eight. Four of our faculty members have been trained through the Edible Schoolyard Program and Alice Waters in Berkley, California.

All of our pool water is sanitized by a filtration system that has been boosted by the use of ultraviolet light that is now built into our filter system. Ultraviolet light is also a big component of our Living Machine system during which wastewater is exposed to ultraviolet light before it goes in the tributary and eventually feeds the Cuyahoga River.

Old Trail School hosts the Countryside Conservancy Farmers' Markets during the winter season (November – April). This event is sponsored by Cuyahoga Valley National Park and is brings many local organic farmers to the Old Trail School campus to sell their products to the public. This event has led to the creation of new relationships with many of the vendors who have become providers for the School's food and related needs. These markets routinely bring 600-1,000 each week and help reinforce the value of buying local to our entire community.

Old Trail School has three beehives that produce honey. This has been a student elective for middle school children and is very popular. We own multiple protective bee suits that allow students to get close to the bees safely. Teachers help students harvest the honey that is then used on our kitchen and as gifts on occasion. Our students also assist all of the programs that we just articulated, which is part of our middle school curriculum in a program called Farm Hands.

Students graduate from Old Trail School with an incredible appreciation for the environment and all components of it from food, to water, to operational systems, and energy savings systems that we put to use on a regular basis and incorporate throughout our entire curriculum.

Part Nine: PILLAR THREE: 100 percent of the school or district's graduates are environmentally and sustainability literate
There are many pathways to achieving a 100 percent environmental and sustainability literacy rate. Provide a 1500-word maximum narrative about how your school or district is progressing toward improving the Environmental Literacy for students and staff. Insert Narrative Here:

Old Trail School is committed to carefully articulating, auditing and promulgating how our sustainability curriculum connects with students at all grade levels and in all subject areas. To accomplish this, the faculty and administration maintain the School's Curriculum Maps in a web-based utility called Rubicon Atlas. Teachers update curriculum maps, in real time, that are available to view and use by the entire school community. These maps are available to all parents via the Parent Portal of our website.

The School has identified "sustainability" as a keyword and searchable term. At present, a search on the word "sustainability" produces 168 results in diverse subject areas including: science, art, service, edible education, farming, health, geography and environmental education. Sustainability units appear in curriculum maps in all grade levels from early childhood through grade eight. As the School's curriculum evolves, more and more meaningful connections will emerge and be built upon in other subject areas.

Old Trail School's curriculum is focused on the nine capacities of a literate individual: Students demonstrate independence, becoming self-directed learners; Students build strong content knowledge and share their knowledge through writing and speaking; Students respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose, and discipline, knowing that different disciplines call for different types of evidence; Students comprehend as well as critique, understand what an author or speaker is saying, while also questioning the veracity of claims and the soundness of reasoning; Students value evidence; Students use technology and digital media strategically and capably; and, Students come to understand other perspectives and cultures. Embracing literacy supports our interdisciplinary sustainability curriculum.

The National Education for Sustainability K-12 Student Learning Standards is a guidance document for integrating sustainability concepts into K-12 teaching and learning. The Education for Sustainability (EfS) standards are embraced at Old Trail School and direct our sustainability course of study. Education for Sustainability is, by nature, interdisciplinary and therefore can be readily integrated into core content teaching and learning. EfS Standards use a variety of methods that promote participatory learning and higher-order thinking skills. Core to these standards are three Essential Understandings: 1 – Students understand and are able to apply the basic concepts and principles of sustainability, that is meeting current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs; 2 – Students recognize the concept of sustainability as a dynamic condition characterized by the interdependency among ecological, economic, and social systems, that is they develop an understanding of the human connection to and interdependence with the natural world; and 3 – Students develop a multidisciplinary approach to learning the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to continuously improve the health and well-being of present and future generations, via both personal and collective decisions and actions. Students become better able to envision a world that is sustainable, along with the primary changes that would need to be made by individuals, local communities and countries to achieve this.

An example of our students' exploration was recently demonstrated in a "Trash-Free Tuesday" activity. Everyone who ate in the dining room that day was informed that the compost, recyclables and landfill trash that day would be measured. The results showed that our youngest students do the best job of sorting their waste (recyclables, compostables, including compostable paper products, and landfill waste). This is likely partly attributable to the adult oversight of these youngest students. More importantly, our community learned that our food service contractor must be informed to adjust their organizational protocols to better sort compost and recyclables from the waste stream. This audit was just another case of "teach your parents well," as our students are the more attuned citizens in regard to kitchen and cooking waste management.

In Grade 5 and Grade 7 field activities at the respective venues of The Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center and The Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, students are asked to focus on food waste at every organized meal. At the end of each meal, food waste (that is, food that was put on a plate or in a cup, but not consumed) is weighed by table groupings, whereas something of a competition ensues. What is important is what students bring home from this simulation. Those who serve themselves food that they do not eat find they are the object of peer focus and discussion. It is a powerful lesson about wasting resources that students internalize and remember, hopefully moving them toward behavior change and action.

Students in each of the grade one classrooms manage and learn from laying hens. These hens roost in a little hen tractor that gets moved daily by the teachers and their students. Students learn that moving this tractor serves to organically fertilize the primary school playground. Since the arrival of their chickens, the students are finding and using eggs and have already prepared healthy crepes in their classrooms. They are also planning to prepare chocolate mousse for the next Board of Directors meeting. Hens were chosen because they require no additional grain or food; these three are happily foraging on our kitchen's compostables.

The focus extends beyond raising just farm animals. Students learn to do so in a sustainable manner by re-using kitchen and dining room compost to replace more commonly used chicken feed. These young students learn the wonder of gaining something (eggs, ultimately meat) from nothing; all they provide is love and attention. This animal husbandry falls under the umbrella of the School's Organic Farm and Edible Education Curriculum and the teachers have noted how much more meaningful it is to have the hens in the proximity of students where they learn and play. These first graders own an indelible memory of chasing chickens, finding eggs, and moving the tractor. This memory is grounded in respectful agriculture that is useful and sustainable.

Middle school students have the opportunity every other summer to visit the Heifer Ranch, a working farm in rural Perryville, Arkansas. The Ranch is part of Heifer International, a nonprofit organization that works to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development. The 1,200-acre Heifer Ranch is filled with gardens and animals, including water buffalo, camels, goats, pigs, horses and more. Our students visit the Ranch for a week and participate in hands-on, interactive programs and activities promoting sustainable solutions to global hunger, poverty and environmental degradation. To date more than 40 Old Trail School have participated.

The Cloud Institute for Sustainable Education has created Education for Sustainability (Efs): Standards and Performance Indicators. They have articulated a Common Core aligned curriculum that rests on The Cloud Institute's 9 Core Efs Standards. These standards are: Cultural Preservation and Transformation, Responsible Local and Global Citizenship, the Dynamics of Systems and Change, Sustainable Economics, Healthy Commons, Natural Law and Ecological Principles, Inventing and Affecting the Future, Multiple Perspectives, and a Strong Sense of Place.

Before presenting their aligned curriculum, The Cloud Institute posits what they call "Efs Enduring Understandings; these statements of understanding are not only logical, they are optimistic. These 12 belief statements are: A healthy and sustainable future is possible; We are all in this together; Healthy systems have limits; We must recognize and protect the commons (those creations of nature and society that we inherit and hold in trust); We reconcile individual rights with collective responsibilities; Diversity makes our lives possible; We create change at the source, not the symptom; Think in terms of 1000 years; Read the feedback; It all begins with a change in thinking; We live by natural laws; and, We are all responsible for everything we do and do not do.

As Old Trail School seeks to best quantify its rich and varied sustainability curriculum, it compares itself to standards like the Common Core adopted by Ohio in 2011, with attention paid to The Cloud Institute and the National Education for Sustainability K-12 Student Learning Standards.

The School's sustainability curriculum is a work in progress, but the passion demonstrated by students and teachers is palpable, genuine and growing.

Part Ten: Element 3B: Use of the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content knowledge and thinking skills to prepare graduates for the 21st century technology-driven economy.

Provide an 800-word maximum narrative of how your school or district is progressing toward improving the use of the environment and sustainability to improve STEM knowledge and problem-solving skills. Narrative Here:

As a part of Old Trail School's service learning curriculum, all middle school students engage annually at the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. Their service is hands-on and physical, and on the floor of this facility that works daily to redistribute food and household goods to underserved and impoverished citizens. Every visit includes a component of hearing and understanding data associated with the task. If our volunteer students are putting bulk hand soap into family-sized containers, students will be impressed with the mathematics of that division, volumetrically and economically. Attention to sell-by dates and other aspects of perishability receive focus, not to mention the economics of the charity's operation, and the food's impact, as charity, on families. This service is mandatory for the individual students, providing a good introduction to philanthropy, food distribution and social inequality.

Other self-selection opportunities give students opportunities to serve on the school's "Green Team," comprised of students from grades three through five who work with a teacher-advisor to heighten the community's sensitivity. Old Trail School recently broadcast to families via Twitter that first graders, who initiated the installation of permanent "no idling" signage on our curb, were making themselves physically present before dismissal to remind parents who sat in the dismissal pick-up line of cars, to turn off their engines. These students' passions were rewarded with action, praise and notoriety.

All of our students spend time working on our organic farm, which is jointly managed by Old Trail School and the Hattie Larlham Foundation, a local organization dedicated to the support of children and adults with developmental disabilities. Students will work on a project (growing garlic, or planning and planting sunflowers, or tending bee hives, or harvesting honey or/and, planning and harvesting a 3-sisters garden (corn, whose stalks prop beans, which shelters squash), learning about sustainable farm practices, native American cultural history, botany and agriculture. Our students touch all four of our School's core values: Respect, Responsibility, Service and Goodness while learning about farming, humanity, meteorology, and natural science.

In that our campus is situated within the boundaries of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, many opportunities are used to connect with "the commons" around science, math and engineering, visual arts, language arts, history, and physical education. Our students gain an appreciation for a sustained wild environment as they learn about orienteering as part of physical education or participate in invasive plant remediation as an advisory service activity.

Old Trail School's science curriculum and programing possess foundational educational and sustainability themes. Students at all levels are actively engaged in problem-based exploration of our world. Grade six students study meteorology, including the cause and effect of climate change while grade seven students study life science, including disease and public health. In grade eight, students study earth science and physical science, further honing the STEM skills of lab protocol and collaborative exploration.

Our students participate in a number of robotics lessons (including after school clubs) and, as a result of receiving a local foundation's Educator Initiative Grant students are engaged in a new project – "Programming and Coding Through the Ages" and are currently working on a "career component." Part of this instruction includes engaging adults (parents, alumni, etc.) who are engineers, inventors, programmers, software developers, scientists, game developers or robotics professionals to share information about their careers with the students in early childhood through grade four.

As a school for toddler through grade eight students, we only have anecdotal tracking as to what field, or at what level our students ultimately achieve in high school and beyond. Old Trail School students do matriculate to high schools with an understanding of the scientific method, and with an integrated capacity in mathematics and technology to be accurate and data-driven scientific observers.

Old Trail School is known by local and regional high schools for graduating students with high levels of comprehension with respect to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

In Spring 2014, the School administered a survey to graduates who were currently in high school. 94% of respondents said Old Trail School prepared them Very Well or Well for high school Science and 90% said Old Trail School prepared them Very Well/Well for high school Math. Old Trail School graduates' capacity for and interest in STEM subjects places 100% of our students on a course for post-secondary school learning, many choosing science, medicine, or engineering. In a more recent alumni parent survey (November 2014) we learned the following: 84% of respondents participated in honors, advanced placement or post-secondary high school courses in Math/Computer Science; 78% in Science. One student achieved a perfect ACT math score and five students averaged a score of 740 on the SAT in math (on an 800 scale with a 500 average nationwide score.)

Part Eleven: Element 3C: Development of civic engagement knowledge and skills, and students' application of these to address sustainability and environmental issues in their community.

Provide a 500-word maximum narrative of how your school or district is progressing to improve civic and community partnership toward sustainability. Insert Narrative Here:

"There are so many opportunities that I was granted, that many other children would never have been. Through the greenhouse and Earth Day activities, I learned more about sustainability than I would ever need to know about." (Old Trail School high school alumni survey - May 2014)

The genesis of this student's attitude is a product of the passion for sustainability that is part of our School's culture. Students learn about the biology, chemistry, physics and civics of freshwater management and stewardship. One unit culminates with a visit to Akron Water Treatment facility at the headwaters of the Cuyahoga River. The facility's civic mission is reiterated to these students when they enjoy a canoe outing on these same pristine waters in the autumn of grade eight. Prior to that our students explore how their School purifies its own wastewater through our Living Machine which will ultimately enter the same river's flow, downstream via a tributary on the School's property. At Old Trail School, the stigma of sewage treatment has taken on a noble purpose; students know how the Living Machine works, and why it is important to them, their School, their river and the watershed, all the way to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. (The Living Machine is described in detail in Part 4: Element 1B of this application.)

Grade five students participate in an overnight education experience as part of the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center's watershed experience - "All the Rivers Run" – that focuses on human impact on the watershed and exploration of low impact development tools lessen that impact. Students discover the diversity of plant and animal life in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, learning about sustainable living, and exploring the intricacies of the Cuyahoga River Watershed. Hiking, singing, creating, sharing and learning are all a part of this hands-on, high energy experience. Grade seven students travel each spring to the Tennessee River Watershed in the Great Smoky Mountains as continue their education about conservatism being a shared and universal aspiration.

Students are encouraged to represent the School at civic events and activities. Recently students have presented to council members in a local city about the School's sustainability initiatives. A group of grade eight students also participated in a "Green on the Green" fair to share information with attendees about the importance of being environmentally sustainable. Students created and performed demonstrations, designed materials to distribute and spoke with members of the public about what they are doing in School and how others can become more sustainable.

We recently learned that one of our alumni has created a "social good" healthy snack company after spending time in the Amazon Rainforest as a Peace Corps volunteer. His snacks are made from acai berries that are grown in the Rainforest and part of his mission is to create sustainable economic development and income sources in the Amazon. This young man certainly embodies and demonstrates the spirit of environmental and social responsibility that Old Trail School instills in all our students.

Green, Greener, Greenest

SUSTAINABILITY AT OLD TRAIL SCHOOL

JOHN FARBER

Welcome to the *Old Trail School Magazine*, Environmental Sustainability issue. This is one of my favorite topics. Environmental sustainability encompasses all of an organization's activities and its total impact on our planet. There are many definitions of sustainability:

- *Long-term maintenance of ecosystem components and functions for future generations*
- *Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs*
- *A movement toward redesigning the ways society's needs and wants are met so that they can be accommodated within the long-term carrying capacity of the environment*

All of these include a respect for the future and involve looking at a whole system over time.

Today's environmental issues are huge. Everywhere you go and everything you read today is focused on people being concerned about our environment. Your personal stance regarding climate change, water quality, food, energy, conservation and preservation is not important. Whatever your personal stance, we can all agree that what matters most is leaving a better world for those who follow us.

Our children's health must be protected. It is imperative that we help our students by providing and contributing to a healthy environment and global society. What happens in schools has a profound impact on the rest of society. Educators have the responsibility to capture the attention of young children and train them properly. We need to develop new ways of thinking and regenerating the health of our local eco-system.

Old Trail School is building a prototype of what should be happening everywhere, focusing on five major areas of environmental sustainability: water, food, operations, recycling and facility. Each of these areas has been carefully evaluated by our administration and we are looking at ways to improve each of them and connect them directly to our curriculum. We are striving to reduce our carbon footprint and introduce students to their natural



world through hands-on science lessons, gardening and habitat restoration.

Being in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park allows us to focus on location-based education. We take advantage of our unique surroundings by encouraging our students, families, faculty and staff to take time to examine and explore the outdoors — using our campus as an environmental learning center.

Our faculty, staff and administration have an ongoing commitment to integrate environmental sustainability into the School's curriculum. We have spent a great deal of time critically evaluating what the school can do to "go green" and be better stewards of the environment. We believe it is our responsibility to teach students about environmental preservation through curriculum. We seek ways to integrate environmental sustainability into all aspects of the school — our curriculum, facilities, food service and operations — and share our knowledge with others.

Blending environmental sustainability with hands-on learning experiences dramatically improves the lives of our students and others, thus promoting a life-long commitment to environmental responsibility.

We are committed to being a local and regional leader, as well as a model and moral force for environmental sustainability. Our goals during the next several years are to:

- Advocate for principles of good environmental sustainability;
- Encourage our students, parents, faculty and staff to become better stewards of our planet by modeling sustainable behavior and practice;
- Promote the integration of sustainability into our mission, curriculum, operations and relevant activities; and
- Partner with regional organizations on sustainability initiatives.

(Adopted from National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) 2007 Commitment to Environmental Sustainability Statement.)

We are creating a Center for Environmental Sustainability — a model of education, programming and operation that draws local, regional and national attention to Old Trail School for our commitment to the environment. The Center will comprise our Living Classroom that houses the Living Machine, Greenhouse and classroom space as well as an endowment large enough to allow for growth and continuation of the programs. The Center will also feature a sound outreach and curriculum component designed to provide hands-on learning opportunities to Old Trail School students and the public (see pg. 6).

The Organic Farm

We are thrilled to have received the very generous gift of 12-acres of property immediately adjacent to the School's main campus from the Baird family (Randy, alum parent and children, James '91, Jared '92 and Elizabeth '95). This property will be used to create an organic farm that will be maintained by our students and eventually shared with other students throughout the region. It is our hope to partner with organizations to help us with the actual farming, education and promotion. We also plan to collaborate with other schools to share our experience with them, becoming a much-needed community resource.

Once established, Old Trail School's organic farm will supply our kitchen with food and will teach students important, hands-on lessons about where their food comes from and how it is produced and distributed.

What's Next?

We are working to develop new sources of energy and creating partnerships with companies and organizations that will help power our buildings with solar, wind and other new energy alternatives.

Young people must understand the important role they play in creating a sustainable future. Old Trail School will work hard to facilitate this process in meaningful ways.

Special thanks to all of our alumni and parents who responded when we asked you to share your own "green" stories. We were absolutely delighted to learn about how seriously our Old Trail School extended community takes environmental sustainability so seriously.

In this issue of the magazine, you'll learn a great deal about what our students and teachers are doing to go greener as well as what several of our parents/families are doing with their businesses to reduce their impact on the environment. You'll also read about alumni from across the globe that are approaching their environmental responsibility from a wide array of angles and making a difference.

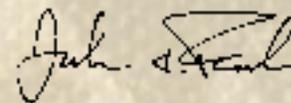
Old Trail School Magazine

For the past two years, Old Trail School has been printing the majority of our materials with Academy Graphic Communication Inc. in Cleveland. AGC has obtained both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Chain-of-Custody Certification and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Chain-of-Custody Certification. FSC is an international nonprofit organization that promotes responsible management of the world's forests by recognizing products and processes that meet their rigorous environmental and social standards. For more information, visit their website: www.visitagc.com.

Inside you will also find a postcard that will help us be a bit more environmentally responsible with regard to the future production of this publication. If you would like to consider reading our magazine online via our website, you can fill out the card and return it to us. We will alert you via email when a new issue is available and direct you to the appropriate location on our website. This will reduce the use of paper and will also enable the school to reduce printing

and postage costs. If you do not wish to read the magazine in this fashion, we will be happy to continue mailing the magazine to you.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Old Trail School Magazine*.



Old Trail School is a Champion

John Farber and Old Trail School received a Champion of Sustainability Award from the Entrepreneurs for Sustainability (E4S) in Cleveland. The award was presented at an event at Case Western Reserve University last November.

The Champion of Sustainability award recognizes individuals who implement and inspire groundbreaking sustainability initiatives in their businesses and organizations. E4S received 42 nominations and selected five award recipients.

John has led the way for the school's faculty, staff, students and families to be aware of their impact on the planet and change. He has demonstrated the school's commitment to global sustainability by starting a Sustainability Committee that created and implemented a Sustainability Plan containing five focus areas: curriculum, facilities, operations, food and recycling.

Entrepreneurs for Sustainability (E4S) is an award-winning entrepreneurial nonprofit founded in 2000 and based in Cleveland, that advances the idea that sustainability principles are drivers for new business opportunities and improved quality of life.