



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: Mrs. Natalie Webb

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

Official School Name: North Elementary

(As it should appear on an award)

Official School Name Mailing Address: 825 Chestnut Ridge Road, Morgantown, WV 26505

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

County: Monongalia State School Code Number *: 056220

Telephone: 304-291-9280 Fax: 304-291-9213

Web site/URL: http://www.edline.net/pages/North_ES E-mail: nlwebb@k12.wv.us

*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: 01/30/2015

(Principal's Signature)

Name of Superintendent: Dr. Frank Devano

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



District Name: Monongalia

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

Have reviewed the information in this application
Dr. Frank A. Adams

Date: 01/30/2015

(Superintendent's Signature)

Nominating Authority's Certifications

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

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

Name of Nominating Agency: West Virginia Department of Education

Name of Nominating Authority: Mrs. Robin Sizemore

(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.

Mrs. Robin Sizemore

Date: 01/30/2015

(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.

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.



Summary and Documentation of Nominee's Achievements

North Elementary

Monongalia County, West Virginia

Item	Possible Points	Points Achieved
Cross cutting questions	5	4
<i>Pillar I – Reduced environmental impact and costs</i>		
Element IA	15	5
Element IB	5	2
Element IC	5	3
Element ID	5	3
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Pillar II – High standards of nutrition, fitness, and outdoor time</i>		
Element IIA	15	11
Element IIB	15	13
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Pillar III – Sustainability education and curriculum</i>		
Element IIIA	20	13
Element IIIB	5	5
Element IIIC	10	8
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>26</i>
Total	100	67

Summary

North Elementary School is a large, ethnically diverse school that initiated garden-based learning (GBL) in 2011; it is the first school in Monongalia County to adopt the Farm to School initiative. Our model includes 24 outdoor raised beds, a composting facility, in-classroom growing facilities, vermicomposting, and project-based learning curricula. A high tunnel with 14 additional beds and a new science lab will be completed in the spring of 2015. Primary aims of this projects include developing a rainwater harvesting system; increasing school garden and local farm produce in school lunch and after school events; expanding and integrating more nutrition into our GBL curriculum; and educating our families and community about healthy food and life choices. Our model is building on a strong partnership with parents, West Virginia University Extension and Teacher Education, Monongalia County Master Gardener, West Virginia Department of Education Office of Child Nutrition, AmeriCorps, and the Morgantown Farmers Market. The model includes teacher-leaders who integrate GBL with core subjects (math, writing, and science). The key means to accomplishing our goals is professional development and on-site support to teachers, administrators, and cafeteria staff. Our project will increase substantially the Farm to School movement in Monongalia County. Our GBL approach is a model for elementary schools everywhere and we serve as the leader in this approach in West Virginia.

Pillar I – Reduce environmental impacts

Our 24 raised gardens provide extra greenspace and beauty to the North Elementary campus. We are also in the process of building a natural playground that will host our preK – kindergarten students. This playground will be a natural landscape providing students with the opportunities to explore and discover. We compost food scraps from our kitchen (about 70 pounds a week). Students are responsible for caring for the compost pile; we use this rich soing in our gardens. We are working with the city of Morgantown to continue our recycling program at the school. Students and teachers recycle newspaper and office paper. Our gardens, composting, and rain water harvesting are unique efforts that assist with reducing environmental impacts as well as education our teachers, students, families, and community about the importance of green living and creating sustainable food for our children.

Pillar II – Improve health and wellness

In addition to our garden, we have a walking trail and field where students can exercise during recess. We are in the process building a natural playground in addition to our two existing playgrounds. We host Girls on the Run at North where positive social, emotional, and physical health is promoted. Our gardens provide an outdoor classroom for our students; they are actively engage in the outdoors in their learning. Students are instructed through our GBL program that healthy eating goes hand-in-hand with exercising and a healthy lifestyle. The majority of our faculty and staff are involved in our walking wellness program. We participate in WV Let's Move. We also work with our Parntner in Education Healthworks to provide teachers and students with information

about healthy lifestyle choices. Healthworks also has a Zumba rewards program for our students.

Pillar III – Sustainability literacy and learning

The pinnacle of our sustainable school efforts is centered on our garden-based learning program that is integrated into all subjects. As the leader in the state for GBL, this program has transformed our school culture and engaged the community in a meaningful partnership for learning. Our lessons are inquiry based and are driven by our state standards in reading/language arts, math, science, social studies, and global competency. Teachers in grades prek through fifth grade use the garden as a tool to develop student curiosity thereby fostering students' abilities to ask driving questions. The questions are the focus of the project based learning units. Students are learning about composting, recycling, growing healthy foods, the importance of pollinators, and the importance of using organic products. We teach real-world experiences, such as bundling and selling our produce at the Morgantown Farmers' Market.

Reviewers' comments

Pillar I: Reduced environmental impacts and costs

Element IA: *Reduced energy use and/or greenhouse gas emissions through the use of an energy audit or emissions inventory and reduction plan, cost-effective energy efficiency improvements, and on-site renewable energy and/or purchase of green power*

North Elementary School participates in a county-wide energy audit through KORENERGY. They survey the use of electricity, participate in a competitive purchasing program, and perform a power reduction during summer months.

Element IB: *Improved water quality, efficiency, and conservation.*

North Elementary has numerous gardens on their school grounds. Additionally they use native grasses and rain barrels to reduce their storm water runoff. They have four rain barrels that collect water runoff to provide a watering system for their gardens. This decreases water use and provides instruction to students about sustainable gardening.

Contamination, such as lead, is no risk due to their use of municipal water.

Element IC: *Reduced solid waste production through increased recycling, reduced consumption, and improved management, reduction, or elimination of hazardous waste stream.*

North Elementary composts food scraps from our kitchen (about 70 pounds a week). Students are responsible for caring for the compost pile as part of their curriculum.

They work with the city of Morgantown to continue our recycling program of newspaper and paper items from their classrooms/office.

According to county policy, North Elementary adheres to the Green Seal Standards; GS-42 Commercial and Institutional Cleaning Service.

Element ID: *Expanded use of alternative transportation to, during and from school, through active promotion of locally-available options and implementation of enabling projects and policies.*

Monongalia County maximizes bus use by filling bus seats to full capacity. This decreases the amount of buses needed.

Monongalia County Schools is currently working with the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization to develop a Safe Routes to Schools program and bike paths throughout the area.

Pillar II: Improve the health and wellness of students and staff

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

North Elementary strictly adheres to WV Code for integrated pest management. The code requires use of non-chemical control methods before use of any pesticides. Use of these traps is monitored and locations are noted on an inspection plan. If chemical pesticides are needed, a notice is sent to all staff and parents prior to the use. Chemical pesticides can only be used during unoccupied hours. All schools must have a documented Pest Management Plan. Monongalia County Schools contracts with PSMI to monitor the buildings for pests and to use traps and/or pesticides in accordance to state law. The amount of pesticide used by PSMI is recorded at each location in the pest management log.

North adheres to WV Policy 4336, an anti-idling policy. Buses are required to turn off their ignition and not idle if waiting to drop off students. There is signage to encourage the same behavior of parents.

North Elementary enforces the prohibition of tobacco products on campus, in public school buses, and at school-sponsored events in compliance with WVDE Policy 4373. They use signs to notify the public of this policy.

School nurses educate students with asthma to teach them about triggers, symptom recognition, and inhaler use. The school is a latex free school.

Classroom ventilation is controlled through a Building Automation System (BAS) that

meets ASHRAE standards. It monitors the inside air, the outside air for temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide. It then adjusts ventilation accordingly. All spaces are designed per WVDE policy to provide air changes per hour.

North Elementary participates in the state provided preventative maintenance program by School Dude. Regular inspections of HVAC equipment are scheduled through the program to occur at regular, planned intervals.

North also adheres to the county policy of purchasing and using Green Seal certified cleaning products.

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

North Elementary excels in the area of nutrition, fitness, and outdoor time. They have 24 raised garden beds as well as over 10 indoor grow-labs. As the leader in their county for Farm to Schools, they are supplying produce to their cafeteria and using the gardens as part of our curriculum.

The school follows WVDE policy requiring at least 30 minutes per day physical education. When appropriate, classroom teachers or physical education teachers take students outside when weather permitting. We participate in FITNESSGRAM, a WV fitness assessment program.

Second and fifth grade students participate in the Cardiac Wellness program. The wellness coordinator distributed pedometers to faculty and staff in order to participate in a walking challenge. The majority of the school's faculty, staff, and students are involved in our walking wellness program, WV Let's Move initiative, and Healthworks ZUMBA rewards.

In addition to gardens, North's schoolyard has a walking trail and field where students can exercise during recess.

The school offers afterschool cooking classes to interested families, incorporate as much produce as possible in the cafeteria as well as purchase produce locally, and are actively involved in the local farmers market.

Pililar III – Effective sustainability literacy and learning

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

Learning targets by grade level:

Pre-K classes are creating a shade garden to beautify the school. They are researching different types of plants that can survive without full sun. They also grow produce (herbs,

spinach) during the winter months in their classrooms using grow-lights and earthboxes. This produce is donated to a local restaurant and featured on their menu.

Kindergarten students are using their produce to create healthy snacks. They are comparing, contrasting, measuring and observing through cooking experiences. Students also work with their teachers and families to harvest, wash, bundle and sell the produce during summer and winter months at the local farmers market.

Students in first grade are learning about cucumbers and Chinese noodles. They start the seeds in their classrooms and transplant them outdoors when weather is permissible. They are learning important vocabulary and this curriculum enhances their cultural knowledge. First grade students are also learning that worms are an important part of our ecosystem. Vermicomposting has provided a living laboratory especially rich for learning life and earth sciences. Students also learn the concepts of biodegradable surface area, food chains, and how to carry out an experimental investigation.

The second grade learns about different herbs and how they can dehydrate them to create different types of tea. Students research the benefits of multiple types of herbal tea. Third grade students are learning about the Three Sisters Garden and the types of produce depending on each other for survival. Students begin with seedlings in their classrooms and transplant in warmer months. Students continue their learning while caring for their Three Sisters Garden in their raised garden bed.

The fourth grade students took STEM to a new level by engineering two low tunnels out of recycled pop bottles. They used math and science to develop their plan and worked with family members to erect their vision. Students then grew types of squash in their low tunnels and made observations as to why the squash grew, or didn't grow.

Fifth grade is responsible for taking our preconsumed produce from the cafeteria and dumping it in our compost pile. Students have learned the benefits of composting and have been able to investigate why our plants growing in the rich compost soil are more bountiful.

Many classes are working on a pollinator garden and discovering the importance of pollinators. All of our GBL enhances our curriculum. Students are outdoors maintaining their gardens. Many of our students share their knowledge with their families and begin their own gardens at home. A tenet of the program is teaching about the nutritional value of healthy fruits and vegetables.

North Elementary teachers have participated in an array of professional development that is used directly in the implementation of the GBL curriculum.

North Elementary uses a Gigapan, a robotics camera technology. This allows teachers to use this technology to expand student inquiry and observation skills by magnifying parts of a plant. Participating teachers trained fifteen other teachers in our building on this technology.

At the BUCK Institute ten teachers learned how to create project based learning units as well as how to incorporate technology in their practices.

Through the NASA IV&V teachers learned how to incorporate robotics in their pollinator learning unit. The tools they learned during this training assisted them to erect a three tiered pollinator garden.

At the WV SASS Institute a teacher participated in a writing in science seminar. She brought back how writing in science investigation plays an important role. She trained other teachers in our building on using writing with science.

Element IIIB: *Use of the environment and sustainability to develop Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) content knowledge and thinking skills to prepare graduates for the 21st century technology-driven economy.*

Garden Based Project learning starts with a driving question from students. Students work through the Scientific Method during this process. They are using resources, prior knowledge to guide their learning. Teachers and students use the garden as a tool to provide data for their driving question. For example, a question might be: Do longer strawberry runners provide more fruit than shorter strawberry runners (2nd grade)? Students use their strawberries in their indoor grow-labs, or outdoor tiered bed to investigate this question. Science notebooks are provided for students to record their data and they work collaboratively to analyze and interpret their data. Students are also sampling their produce and learning about the nutritional benefits of fruit.

Element IIIC: *Development of civic engagement knowledge and skills, and students' application of these to address sustainability and environmental issues in their community.*

By implementing the GBL, students have become better connected with the community in meaningful ways. Through these connections and partnerships, students are learning first hand about civic engagement and stewardship.

North Elementary develops a “Garden and Nutrition Newsletter” that provides education about GBL as well as healthy tips and recipes for our community members. Many students are now gardening with their families and harvesting much of the same produce as at North. Students use the Morgantown Farmers Market as a platform to share the news about school gardens and how it has enhanced their education.

North partners with WVU to use our interns to help enhance our gardening program. They also have a partnership with the Master Gardeners; every Saturday during the summer months master gardeners assist our parents with garden caretaking. Students learn responsibility through caretaking even when school isn't in session. Master gardeners also teach gardening concepts to parents, teachers and students.





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Happy National Nutrition Month!

March is National Nutrition month. What will you do? What are your goals? Spring is a great time to think about your personal well-being and everyday lifestyle. It's a great time because it's when the weather breaks and the sun shines, which means it's the perfect time to get outside and MOVE! And build a garden perhaps?



Thumbs up for Salsa

Transplanting and salsa making was a hit in Ms. Yohe's class. Transplanting led to a very dirty rug (Sorry Charlotte!) but the students learned how to gently pick up the plants without breaking too much of the root, had the chance to pack in the soil and learned how to harvest just the leaves of the cilantro. Ms. Yohe asked the students to smell each plant (cilantro, basil, tomato) and to talk about the differences. Salsa making with fresh cilantro was a fun time to be had by all, and I would say 20 out of 25 asked for seconds, making it a cooking success!



Construction Today, for a New Place to Play

The traffic, the noise, the dirt, the confusion! The construction. It may seem never ending and it doesn't look too pretty right now, but picture this: A new Preschool building, including a state of the art science lab with big windows and glass doors, opening up to a naturally constructed play area and outdoor learning center that will include green grass and mulch, wooden structures to climb on, gardens intertwined within the play area, and a hoop house (similar to a greenhouse) large enough to contain 10+ raised garden beds and a space big enough to comfortably conduct year-round garden-based learning projects. This is the vision, at least! And it's in progress to becoming a reality...so bear with us for the time being!

Springin' Into Spring!

Plants are springin' up all over North, thanks to classroom grow lights and junior gardeners/observers/investigators that are making sure their plants are staying nice and wet! The students in Mrs. Rummel's class and the Pre-K classes are learning that sometimes it takes a few failures and learning from mistakes to eventually bring success! Gardening isn't always easy and there are always questions to ask, but that only makes it all the better for science investigation.



Classes with newly seeded plants:

- Kight's Kindergarten class- Flowers and cucumbers
- Kern's 1st grade class- Flowers
- Fagan's 1st grade class- Lettuce & Spinach
- Rummel's 4th grade class- Spinach, Kale, Chard, Collards, & Mustard GREENS
- Thompson/Kieffer's 4th grade class- Lettuce & Spinach
- Pennington/Stanley's 4th grade class- A whole bunch...

But it's not too late! Spring has just begun, and it would be great if even more classes wanted to hop on board the grow train!? Please contact Jim Rye or myself (Vanessa Onkow) for help and assistance with growing. *Let's create a bountiful school garden this year!*

Growing Healthy Habits Afterschool

The last week in February marked the first afterschool Gardening and Cooking Club! Ten to fifteen students from the Kaleidoscope program were asked if they wanted to be a part, and they all happily accepted! On Monday the kids bundled up and trekked outside to harvest some school garden Spinach, and then Tuesday we made fresh Spinach Tzatziki. Eaten with carrot sticks, every kid gave two thumbs up, recipes were taken home to parents, and there were happy bellies all around! We hope to make this an ongoing program, so recommendations for fun and healthy recipes are welcome!



Mrs. Pennington's Rainbow Garden

By: The Garden Gossip Group

Mrs. Pennington's class is growing a Rainbow Garden together. For the color red they are growing red beets. For orange they grew orange carrots. For yellow they are growing yellow carrots and squash. For green, blue, and purple they are growing brussels sprouts, blue potatoes, and beets. They have been very successful, except the squash. "It's sprouting with hard work," says Christian Fortuna. "The Rainbow Garden will need a lot of work, but we can do it!" states Senen Mando. "It will help motivate children and adults to eat healthier," pronounces Grady King. These are three kids participating in helping the Rainbow Garden grow.



Fun Food Facts

- California produces almost all of the broccoli sold in the United States.
- A horn worm can eat an entire tomato plant by itself in one day!
- The average American consumes **22** teaspoons of sugar A DAY. (Yikes!)
- Refined sugar is linked to: Obesity, allergies, tooth decay, insomnia, cardiovascular disease, ADD/ADHD, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, heart disease...and the list goes on. It's addicting and once you start you crave more and more.

Healthy Recipe Corner

We're keeping it simple this month with a fun and healthy **green snack** just in time for St. Patty's Day!

Homemade Kale Chips

Three simple ingredients are all you need for a delicious and healthy snack!

-Bunches of fresh kale. (Kale that is farm fresh and raised organically tastes less bitter to some, and stays fresh much longer)

-1 to 2 TBSP. olive oil

-1 tsp. sea salt



Pre-heat oven to 300 degrees. Wash and rinse kale bunches. Dry them as best as you can. Cut the ribs out of the kale (they are bitter) and throw them in your compost! Cut kale into smaller 'chip like' pieces. Transfer kale into a bowl and drizzle olive oil all over and thoroughly toss the kale, making sure olive oil gets on every piece. Spread the kale out on a large baking sheet that is covered with parchment paper. Bake for 10-15 minutes or when they look like they are just about crispy. Sprinkle with sea salt and munch on!

Enjoy!