



## Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

# Grasonville Elementary School



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Grasonville, MD 21638  
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[www.qacps.org/GES](http://www.qacps.org/GES)  
Elementary School  
Member since October 2019

## Management and Leadership



### **Environmental Team**

*The GRACIE Club (Grasonville Raises Awareness for Community Interaction with the Environment) consists of fourth and fifth grade students, who meet twice a week for an hour prior to the start of school, and occasionally after school and on weekends, as needed. These students are the driving force of many environmental projects in the school including recycling, plantings, conservation, and primarily education.*

*These fourth and fifth grade students learn about environmental issues and teach the students in the younger grades. The younger students in turn strive to become members of the GRACIE club once they reach fourth and fifth grades. Every student at Grasonville Elementary School is involved in the school projects including recycling, maintaining the wetlands area for natural habitats, and various other programs as shown in this presentation. The GRACIE students are the ambassadors of the green culture within the school!*



### **Environmentally Preferable Products and Services**

*Our teachers receive professional development training on environmental education and incorporate environmental issue-based lesson plans for pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Some of these, like our partnership with GLOBE, include citizen science reporting.*

**Environmental Restoration and Community Environmental Projects**

*Wetlands: GES maintains and utilizes the wetlands as a main source of education for every grade level, as well as a tangible environmental results. We hold an annual "Wetlands Day" Celebration and provides an educational, informative, hands on, fun experience with wetland associated activities for each grade level. The day ends with a wetland concert; students and teachers enjoy this musical event while admiring the beauty of the wetland environment.*

*Oyster Restoration: The fourth grade classes learn about the importance of oysters and spat in the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. They assist in the rearing the spat, monitoring and recording their growth, and releasing them into the bay as part of a field trip to the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center.*

*Terrapin program (TERP): The third grade classes head start a terrapin as part of a larger research and restoration project. Students feed, water, and care for the terrapin eventually releasing it back into its natural habitat at Poplar Island as part of a field trip.*

*Birds: GES students install bird feeders on the school property.*

**Waste**

**Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse**

*In the 2016-17 school year, we no longer send our school-wide newsletters home in paper format! We now have a database with all parent emails, as well as all faculty and staff emails. In the 2016-17 school year, we have opted to place all community informational flyers on our school website, rather than distribute paper copies. Staff Handbooks for the 2016-17 school year were also not printed. These 80-page documents can be found on each staff members google drive.*

**Recycling**

*GRACIE students collect recycled waste twice a week in large blue bins. These bins are placed throughout the school and in the cafeteria and office. The students weigh the recycling and give an outside picnic to the grade level with the most recycled throughout the year! Students also collected 4,500 K cups for recycling in just 5 months!*

*GRACIE students initiated a recycling program at GES. In the 2018-19 school year, they collected over 1,500lbs of recyclables!*

**Composting**

*GES has a compost tumbler on site.*

## **Energy**

**Energy Efficiency**

*Motion sensitive lights installed by the QAC Board of Education in 2014-2015 and continue to be an effective part of cutting energy consumption in our building. We also post signs by light switches to remind students to*

**Renewable Energy**

*Solar Panels were installed in 2015 by the QAC Board of Education in our back field. These solar panels aid in cutting our energy costs.*

## **Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities**

*GES is certified as a Green School by the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators and received recertification in 2017.*

*We are a proud of our successful partnerships with Environmental Concerns, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, Chesapeake Bay Trust, MidShore Riverkeepers, and GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment).*



*Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.*

*Learn more at [green.maryland.gov](http://green.maryland.gov)*

