



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.

The Gunston School



P.O. Box 200
Centreville, MD 21617
410-758-0620
www.gunston.org
Independent high school
Member since August 2019

Management and Leadership

Environmental Policy Statement

Mission Statement:

The Gunston School offers an intellectually rigorous, highly personalized, and nurturing college preparatory educational experience. Valuing a healthy balance between mind and body, a strong sense of community, the creative process, and our connection to the Chesapeake Bay, Gunston strives to educate ethically and environmentally minded scholars, citizens, and leaders for our globalized society.

Statement of Philosophy -- Through classwork and co-curricular programming, an ongoing pursuit of sustainable practices, intensive and rigorous environment-based educational experiences for all students across all disciplines, and diverse environmental stewardship opportunities for students, we fulfill our mission of educating environmentally-minded scholars, citizens, and leaders.

*Gunston has accelerated its position as a regional and national leader in environmental teaching and learning since the release of its forward thinking Environmental Strategic Plan, released in January 2016. The Environmental Strategic Plan is ambitious and broad reaching, spanning Gunston's **curriculum, facilities, community partnerships, and new programs**. We are proceeding deliberately and taking advantage of opportunities that come our way.*

Highlights:

- *A revised mission and philosophy statement that places environmental learning at the center of the Gunston experience.*
- *A board-level leadership focus on environmental strategic planning that prioritizes environmental stewardship as a central school emphasis.*
- *A school-wide integration of environmental stewardship topics into the curriculum across all disciplines.*
- *The development of ongoing faculty and staff administrative professional development protocols that now make environmental stewardship one of the four areas of primary focus for faculty professional development and orientation experiences.*
- *New faculty orientation includes a full-day tour of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum to introduce faculty to the Bay region, and each faculty member must pursue bi-annual environmental professional development experience as part of their ongoing training.*

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

Guided by Gunston’s Environmental Strategic Plan, we have focused our professional development and curricular work on integrating Educating for Sustainability into all aspects of curriculum and instruction. In 2018, the Chesapeake Watershed Semester, was launched which is an innovated program offering high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to take an educational deep-dive into the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay through the dual lenses of environmental science and public policy.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Gunston’s 35-acre campus hosts many programmatic partners throughout the year. We ask every organization utilizing our campus to help us meet our sustainability goals from recycling to energy conservation.

Environmental Restoration and Community Environmental Projects

Located in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, our activities have direct impact on the watershed. Gunston is committed to improving the environmental sustainability of the campus through planting native species, creating wildlife habitats, and reducing the carbon footprint of our grounds maintenance.

The Gunston waterfront has recently undergone a significant transformation. In Fall of 2012, the school dedicated the “Molly Dock,” a fully restored and expanded facility that provides a superior platform upon which students can commune with the Corsica River, engage in environmental research, and participate in waterfront sports. Moreover, thanks to a grant from the

Chesapeake Bay Trust, and in partnership with the Maryland Department of the Environment, in 2013 Gunston's installed a "living shoreline" in order to combat the forces of erosion and provide a healthier habitat for aquatic life.

Science classes utilize the existing of habitats on our campus for research and wildlife observation. Gunston will work to expand these habitats to include a pollinator planting, a meadow filled with species that attract pollinators, fruiting shrubs along the forest edges, a freshwater wetland, and rain gardens.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse

Gunston has installed metered water bottle filling stations as a key part of its commitment to go plastic free by 2018. Single use water bottles will be phased out at all events by 2018 in favor of reusable bottles and compostable cups.

Gunston has taken significant steps to become a paperless institution through the use of the G Suite for Education, electronic newsletters, and secure portals for academic reporting. Additionally, all printers are set to automatically double side printing jobs.

Recycling

Gunston has moved to a single stream recycling hauler who can handle a wide array of materials. We collect about 26,000 lbs. annually. Members of the Environmental Club continue to carry out our recycling efforts on campus and the service is open to Gunston employees.

Composting

Gunston composts all post-consumer organic wastes in a simple three bin system on campus. We collect approximately 1,500 lbs of organic material annually and are committed to composting 100% of pre and post-consumer organic waste by 2020.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

The school's 100-year history is replete with high-quality student environmental learning experiences, but during the last five years, the school has established environmental sustainability as one of the school's primary areas of

emphasis as our campus and buildings receive needed upgrades. Our recent accomplishments include:

- A \$6 million facilities renovation of our academic buildings where sustainability and energy-efficiency were a top priority,
- Installation of LED lighting in the Field House, funded through grants and credits
- Replacing two major septic systems on campus with state-of-the-art BAT systems.
- A comprehensive stormwater restoration project on campus that repaired three badly damaged intermittent drainages with restorative step-pool conveyance systems and regraded and stabilized an eroding hillside located within the 100' buffer.
- Gunston now conducts annual Energy Star building audits to monitor and address energy consumption across the facility.
- A dedicated area on our website focused on the school's commitment to highlighting the school's efforts in environmental stewardship.
- A heightened campus focus on paperless communication and recycling. A new daily bulletin includes environmental "tips" generated by students.
- Gunston includes an annual Sustainability Report in its annual magazine to share success with the wider community and to promote greater accountability for our stated goals.

Water

Stormwater Management and Site Design

The Chester River Association and The Gunston School are excited to announce a suite of campus restoration practices, which will filter stormwater running off campus, revitalize the school's access to the river, and provide lasting educational opportunities for students and members of the community. This two-year project is funded by the Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, Queen Anne's County, The Gunston School, and the Corsica River Conservancy.

The project consists of three ravine stabilizations, an educational rain garden and stormwater conveyance system, and a revitalization of the steep slope that provides access to the Corsica River. The suite of Best Management Practices installed will reduce nutrient and sediment pollution to the Corsica River and create habitat for native species, thereby taking steps towards achieving Gunston's vision of a green campus.

The project will assist Queen Anne's County in meeting its Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) pollution reduction requirements. The Corsica River Conservancy is funding educational signage for the project.

Environmental Certification Programs, Awards, and Other Activities

- ☑ *The Gunston School is a three-time Maryland Green School, certified by the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators. More information about the school and our application are available at the following links:*

<https://www.gunston.org/about/sustainability>

<https://gunstongreenschool.weebly.com/>



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Learn more at green.maryland.gov

