



MAEOE

Maryland Association for Environmental
& Outdoor Education

For Immediate Release

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Announces 2014 Maryland Green School Awards

MAEOE Certifies The Siena School as Maryland Green School

Jessup, Maryland – (April 24, 2014) – The Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE) is pleased to announce that The Siena School (Siena) been certified as a 2014 Maryland Green School. Over the past two years, Siena has demonstrated and documented a continuous effort to integrate sustainable best management practices, environmental education curriculum, professional development opportunities, and community engagement into our daily operations. This certification signifies that our school has made a commitment to developing stewards of the earth and reducing the environmental impact of our school.

The Maryland Green Schools Program (MDGS), an award winning program founded in 1999, was designed to foster a student- led integrated approach to authentic learning that incorporates local environmental issue investigation and teacher professional development with environmental best management practices and community stewardship. This year over 100 schools have been certified as a Maryland Green School, including 45 new schools, 43 first recertification schools, 13 second recertification schools, and 2 sustained schools (final numbers will be released May 1, 2014).

MDGS plays a key role in helping schools meet the Maryland State Department of Education's environmental literacy standards established through the Governor's Partnership for Children in Nature. The program is a method of improving environmental literacy for students and a tool for catalyzing change within the community as envisioned in Maryland Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

“Building a framework today for sustainable environmental structures at school, home and in the community, that is what the Maryland Green Schools program brings to the children of Maryland”, says Laura Johnson Collard, MAEOE Executive Director. The outdoor settings are used to develop an integrated context for learning from elementary school through high school. The children have an impact on their school, homes and their communities. The Maryland Green Schools program plays an important role in fulfilling the state's commitment to ensure our young people become environmentally literate by the time they graduate.”

MAEOE will celebrate with Green Schools, Green Centers and schools interested in knowing more about the program at the Maryland Green School Youth Summit on May 30, 2014, at Sandy Point State Park in Annapolis.

About MAEOE:

A Recipient of the Governor's Smart, Green, and Growing Award, MAEOE is a non-profit membership association that encourages, educates, and supports Maryland educators to inspire the people of Maryland by increasing understanding of the natural resources that exist in the state and engaging adults and children to act responsibly as they enjoy being outside. MAEOE's Maryland Green School program began in 1997. For a complete listing of Green Schools and Green Centers visit www.maeoe.org.

For More Information Contact:

Laura Johnson Collard
(443) 733-1220, ext 114
director@maeoe.org