Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report of Unity Charter School (Morris), a Sustainable Jersey for Schools silver certified applicant.

Unity Charter School (Morris) was certified on August 04, 2020 with 360 points. Listed below is information regarding Unity Charter School (Morris)'s Sustainable Jersey for Schools efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Jersey for Schools contact for Unity Charter School (Morris) is:

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Unity Charter School (Morris) was approved for in 2020 appears below. Note: Standards for the actions below may have changed and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Additionally, points associated with actions prior to 2013 certifications may not be accurate.

Board Leadership & Planning

District Sustainability Policy

10 Points

Bronze Priority Silver Priority District

Program Summary: Sustainability is the core mission of Unity Charter School and has been since our doors opened in 1998. MISSION The mission of Unity Charter School is "to teach the

importance of protecting and improving the environment by educating our students on the principles of sustainability, ecology, and diversity in a way that celebrates and honors this planet and all its inhabitants.” FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY Sustainability is the primary focus of Unity Charter School. Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of the present while enhancing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The curriculum is explored through the lens of sustainability. Experiential learning and inquiry allow students to understand the impact of human endeavors on the environment and its inhabitants. Students work outside on the garden, for example, and this helps them learn where their food comes from. All agendas and minutes can be found on our website. For some reason the 2017-2018 folder had been restricted and now is unblocked and accessible from our webpage. We have also added our green cleaning policy and email shared. This was sent via email and shared in a PPT.

PDF: **MARCH 12, 2018 AGENDA FOR ADOPTION OF POLICY**

WORD: **DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DOCUMENTATION**

PDF: **GREEN CLEANING STAFF EMAIL**

WORD: **GREEN CLEANING POLICY**

PDF: **AGENDA ADOPTING POLICY**

POWERPOINT: **GREEN CLEANING PPT FOR STAFF**

Professional Development for Sustainability

20 Points

Bronze Priority Silver Priority School District

Program Summary: To prepare for the school year, 28 staff members completed sustainability training through choiceboard activities. Books, documentaries, and articles were offered for staff to engage with over the summer. These were utilized to create units of study for their student the the upcomming school year. The education for sustainability pillar of "multiple perspectives" was also a focus this year with the upcoming implementation of the NJ law requiring Boards of Education to include instruction, and adopt instructional materials, that accurately portray political, economic, and social contributions of persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals. 6 teachers and the Executive Director were trained in a pilot program on how best to implement this focus into our middle school. The choiceboard options, staff list of those trained, certificate of summer course attended for multiple persepctives, along with a sample of teacher work completed in the training is provided. Staff trained through the year on sustainable practices during in house staff meetings and team meetings that focus on integration of Sustainability into the curriculum and mentoring middle school students through the EfS project learning experiences. Staff are given resources and release time for their own professional development activities and to work one-one with the Sustainability Coordinator. This time is invaluable for leading faculty to embrace education for sustainability in a deeper way and often impacts their personal life style.

PDF: **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY DOCUMENTATION**

PDF: **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY DOCUMENTATION**

PDF: **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY DOCUMENTATION**

PDF: **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY DOCUMENTATION**

Green Enhancement of District Strategic Plans

10 Points

District

Program Summary: As a commUnity, Unity Charter School just finished going through their 5 year strategic plan development with NJ School Boards Association. The strategic planning committee assessed where the school was in meeting their sustainability goals and developed goals to further infuse sustainability in the school culture, curriculum and the community.

PDF: **STRATEGIC PLAN FLIER**

IMAGE: **GARAGE SALE AS FUNDRAISER**

WORD: **GREEN POLICY**

POWERPOINT: **JUNE ASSEMBLY POWER POINT**

PDF: **GREEN ENHANCEMENT OF DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLANS DOCUMENTATION**

PDF: **DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY PLAN**

Strategic Plan Implementation of Green Initiatives

10 Points

District

Program Summary: Sustainability initiatives have been a part of Unity Charter School since it's formation in 1998. The strategic plan adopted in 2017 prioritizes Education for Sustainability as a goal which states that "OUR GOAL is to create, nurture, and know what makes Unity special: to define what a Unity teacher is, what a Unity student is, what a Unity education is, and see measurable results. ‘Measure what we value’, rather than ‘value what we can measure'. We embrace a full commitment to our mission of Education for Sustainability, delivered through an experiential constructivist approach to learning. We believe providing students collaborative, hands on, real world based learning experiences leads to higher-level achievement. The first curricular goal is: Mission, Sustainability. Education for Sustainability (EfS) standards training from the Cloud Institute for teachers, administration, and Board Members, along with outreach to parents. A goal was also to become the definitive NJ school and leader for Education for Sustainability (EfS) 1. Committee meetings are held monthly and there are monthly reports presented to the public and board of trustees in the Executive Director’s report. Two such updates are included here as well as more formal address at our State of the School. There are also three General Assemblies open to everyone in which the school reports on the progress toward Green Initiatives as well as the infusion of Education for Sustainability in our curriculum and school culture. 2. A copy of our state of the school as well as communications on green initiatives are attached here and always communicated on social media. Additionally, the school believes that our community is broader than our parents, students, staff and faculty and we have a regular column on Tap Into Morristown with communication on sustainably minded ideas. Three such links are shared here. https://www.tapinto.net/towns/morristown/articles/unity-charter-selected-to-take-part-in-think-tank https://www.tapinto.net/towns/morristown/articles/unity-charter-school-s-sustainably-minded-message https://www.tapinto.net/towns/morristown/articles/8th-grade-students-at-unity-charter-school-engaged-in-understanding-sustainable-economics

IMAGE: **GREEN CLEANING INITIATIVES PROMOTED ON FACEBOOK**

IMAGE: **SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE**

PDF: **STATE OF THE SCHOOL FORMAL ADDRESS**

PDF: **STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION**

IMAGE: **SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE 2**

School Community Asset Mapping

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: Rich in Revolutionary War history and alive with culture and diversity, Morristown has so much to offer. Our commUNITY has chosen to select from the amazing Morristown resources those natural and historic places, those thought leaders and artists that closely align with our mission of sustainability. Each in its own way has added wonder to the education of our children and commUNITY. We are proud to recognize and share these highly valued commUNITY assets. These mission-minded partnerships have helped to build a strong network, enabling us to stretch out our roots, deepen our sense of community, and grow and learn together. We have chosen to share this resource of places, people, and events on the PTO Facebook page so it can be readily accessed at any time. https://unitypto.org/community-assets/

WORD: SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING DOCUMENTATION-SENSE OF PLACE UNIT

WORD: SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING DOCUMENTATION- ASSET MAP

PDF: SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING DOCUMENTATION_THE STORY OF MORRISTOWN

WORD: PUBLICATION OF SCHOOL COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING

Diversity & Equity

Accessible Communications

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: The Board of Trustees has supported the following initiatives to increase accessibility. These have been fully operational over the past 12 months and are ongoing. The school has developed multiple communication avenues for community accessibility. The school has created a new more user-friendly website with regularly updated information. In addition to updating our website continually through a news feed, and calendar of upcoming events, we have made full use of social media to provide additional means of communication and extend our reach to the greater community. The school has a Facebook page: Unity Charter School Morristown NJ, a Twitter account: @unitycharter Instagram @UnitycharterSchool and updates the community almost weekly with articles in Tap into Morristown. We have a call system for urgent communication that contacts families through email, phone, and text messages. We also survey families at the beginning of the school year for accessibility to electronic communication and, where necessary, provide paper copies of information in the backpacks. We have teachers, Child Study Team members and an administrator fluent in Spanish as well as Portuguese and when necessary, are in attendance at IEP meetings and other conferences related to our learners including open houses for prospective families. In addition all brochures and applications have been translated into Spanish, the second largest native language in our district. Our democratic governance model is fully inclusive of all stakeholders and informational as well as voting assemblies are held three times per year. Attached please find the baseline data for our school community and beyond which was presented at our General Assembly this year. Additionally, the school used 2018 and to enhance communication, which led to the creation of our new website, a monthly newsletter that speaks to our core beliefs, values and mission. We have included here: 1- Our baseline demographic data – School Community Data Profile 2- The final rebranding marketing presentation from our external partners 3- A copy of our monthly newsletter 4- All communication is shared via, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Email, RoboCalls and text messages – Our RealTime student management system allows us to see who received and opened emails and attachments 5- May 22 we launched our new website that can be translated into almost any language 6- Facebook page “Show people who understand other languages automatic

translations of your posts when available”

IMAGE: **REBRANDING PRESENATION**

PDF: **BASELINE DATA PRESENTATION**

PDF: **SAMPLE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

IMAGE: **WEBSITE ANNOUNCEMENT**

IMAGE: **WEBSITE INTERACTION**

Food & Nutrition

Healthy Food Choices Beyond the Cafeteria

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: Unity Charter School, a vegetarian school states in it's Wellness Policy "Parents will be provided the nutritional standards of the HHFKA and encourage parents to pack lunches and snacks that meet the HHFKA nutritional standards." That Wellness Policy is attached below as well as a photo emailed to the parents at the start of the year with photos of healthy snack choices. The policy also states "The Board of Trustees requires the School to comply with the Federal school meal nutrition standards and the smart snacks in accordance with the requirements HHFKA. The nutritional standards shall apply to all foods and beverages sold in the School as part of the menu pattern meal, a la carte, in school stores, snack bars, or vending machines. The food requirements for any food sold in schools must meet a range of calorie and nutrient requirements as outlined in the HHFKA" and provides guidance on classroom celebrations in its student handbook on pages 31 and 32 in the attached pdf of the handbook. The Unity lunch program is designed to combat common food and ecological problems found today in our schools. We are concerned with the serious increase in childhood obesity and nutrition related illnesses, as well as the incredible haste and waste often associated with school lunches and eating practices at home.This year we continued our tradition of having "Bring Your Parent to Lunch Day" on October 31st. Our school celebrates the day as "Harvest Happening" where the entire school rotates through outdoor activity stations where they work cooperatively through a variety of games. The PTO pops our non-GMO popcorn that the students grew on campus in the snack station and all families are invited to come in for lunch from our vegetarian lunch program. No candy at our school! Souper Game Night is another tradition where the students vote on vegetarian/vegan soups that they create for this family event (flyer attached).The PTO educates the families about vegetarian eating on their Facebook Page. Parents usually have two other opportunities to join us for vegetarian lunch in December and June. While we enjoyed a hearty grilled cheese sandwich and house made tomato soup with the parents in December due to COVID-19 this year we weren't able to bring the parents in to enjoy another delicious vegetarian lunch of tomato, basil and fresh mozzarella sandwiches.

PDF: **HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES BEYOND THE CAFETERIA DOCUMENTATION SOUPER GAME NIGHT**

PDF: **HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES BEYOND THE CAFETERIA DOCUMENTATION WELLNESS POLICY**

PDF: **HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES BEYOND THE CAFETERIA DOCUMENTATION CLASSROOM CELEBRATIONS**

PDF: **UCS LUNCH MENU SEPTEMBER 2019 INCLUDING JERSEY FRESH WEEK**

IMAGE: **HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES BEYOND THE CAFETERIA DOCUMENTATION SNACK PHOTO**

Promote Locally Grown Foods

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: Unity Charter School was established in 1998. Since it opened it has been a vegetarian school, knowing that eating lower on the food chain is not just healthier for our children but also better for the environment. In 2017 the school switched to an in-house nutrition program in order to increase portion sizes for our older children while reducing carbohydrate components. The nutrition department also promotes new vegetables for the children. We eat local sourced produce that are grown by our community partners, Grow it Green Morristown. Grow It Green Morristown's mission is to create sustainable farms and gardens that provide equal access to fresh, local food and educate communities through programs focused on healthy eating and environmental stewardship. They transform abandoned or under-utilized areas of Morristown into beautiful and useful green spaces. Unity Charter School, has a school garden from which they harvest produce and they grow microgreens in the science lab that are served in the cafeteria, and we The farm fresh seasonal foods are incorporated into the school lunch menu when available and are advertised as such so the students may realize this benefit. The school mails out the monthly school menu and they advertise all of 5 of our local farms that we source our other foods from on Facebook page. Photos of our school garden and its maintenance as well as screenshots of the menu being shared on facebook have been included.

PDF: SEPT. MENU

IMAGE: FARM TO SCHOOL DOCUMENTATION

PDF: PROMOTE LOCALLY GROWN FOODS PICS DOCUMENTATION

IMAGE: PROMOTE LOCALLY GROWN FOODS ORDER DOCUMENTATION

School Gardens

10 Points

School

Program Summary: We have been very lucky to have our lower school classes wildly involved with our school garden and following the gardening lesson plans each year. Each learning group is responsible for one or two garden beds that they plant and tend to throughout the school year. The Green Team also helps maintain the garden through the school year and all summer long. One teacher is the Garden Supervisor who coordinates the efforts of all volunteers. We plan on a huge garden renovation at the end of the 2020 school year which will make the garden more accessible and more of an outdoor classroom. Asparagus, tomatoes, potatoes, greens, peppers and herbs are all grown and used in our school kitchen. Popping corn has become an annual favorite during our Harvest Happening celebration in lieu of traditional Halloween sweets. Our grounds and gardens have been certified a "Schoolyard Habitat" by EcoSchools in 2019. We continued to care for and expand the public pollinator garden we created, The CommUnity Garden at Tucker Field to include more native pollinator plants by some of the students and families. In the spring of 2019, middle school students worked to clean out invasive species from another section of the CommUnity Garden as well as building and installing new garden beds. Though distance learning kept our students off campus, teacher, Jen, built all of the school's new garden beds(donated by the PTO) at home and is installing a few each week in June. (UPLOAD NEW GARDEN MAP, , INFO FROM KITCHEN ON FOOD FROM GARDEN, NEW LESSON PLAN)

PDF: SCHOOL GARDENS DOCUMENTATION-GARDENING LESSON PLAN FALL 2019- THE HARVEST

PDF: 1/2 GARDEN SCEINCE LESSONS

PDF: SCHOOL LUNCH WITH GARDEN CROPS

PDF: SCHOOL GARDEN REPORT

PDF: SCHOOL GARDENS DOCUMENTATION- PICTURES

Green Cleaning

Green Cleaning Policy & Plan

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: Unity Charter School, recognizing the importance of the safety and health of the school's students, teachers and staff, does hereby adopt a policy. The school community recognizes that many chemicals commonly found in cleaning products used to clean and maintain schools pose significant and unnecessary health risks for children as well as teachers and staff. Exposure to some of these chemicals has been associated with an increased incidence of asthma, allergies, certain types of cancer, learning and behavioral disorders, endocrine disruption, chemical sensitivity, and kidney or liver damage. In addition to these potential health impacts, certain cleaning chemicals can negatively impact air and water quality or may be acutely toxic to marine life. The intent of it operating procedures when related to cleaning and maintenance of our facility is to reduce student, teacher and staff exposure to these chemicals and reduce environmental pollution by stipulating procurement, implementation and evaluation policies for "green" cleaning products which ensure the highest levels of safety, efficacy and economy. Our cleaning products specified for purchase and use in school facilities are classified into one of the three following categories: 1. Type I products are those which are used daily for routine cleaning in classrooms, hallways and cafeterias, including all-purpose cleaners, cleaning pastes, window and mirror cleaners and dust mop treatments. 2. Type II products are those, which are used to sanitize or disinfect in bathrooms, gymnasiums, nurses' offices, kitchens, etc. 3. Type III products are those, which are used for floor stripping and finishing, metal polishing, graffiti removal, degreasing and heavy duty, restorative carpet cleaning. Once labeled by tier the products will be used based on tier. Tier I deemed the safest will be preferable and Tier III will only be used when students and staff are not in school. Custodian shall be trained in the hazards, use, proper dilution, safety, maintenance, and disposal of cleaning chemicals, dispensing equipment, and packaging.

WORD: GREEN CLEANING POLICY & PLAN DOCUMENTATION

WORD: GREEN AND HEALTHY CLEANING POLICY

Green Cleaning Training & Education Programs

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: For the 2017-2018 school year, all nursing, cafeteria, and custodial staff members were required to complete 2 hours of green cleaning training via webinars. All completed training and documentation was sent to the executive director as such. Green Cleaning training was provided to the staff which is documented under our "Classroom Cleanup Protocols &

Practice" section and we teamed up with local store, Green Market, and held a green cleaning training night for the public during our Souper Game Night event on January 26, 2018.

WORD: GREEN CLEANING DOCUMENTATION FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PDF: GREEN CLEANING TRAINING COMPLETION EMAILS

WORD: GREEN CLEANING TRAINING FOR PARENTS FACEBOOK POST

WORD: GREEN CLEANING TRAINING FOR PARENTS EMAIL

Green Purchasing

Green Purchasing Policy

10 Points

Bronze Priority Silver Priority District

Program Summary: Unity has always purchased green products for our school. This has historically been a philosophical choice we are planning to create a policy for this action. Creating a policy insures that in the future of the school green purchasing will be a requirement.

WORD: GREEN PURCHASING POLICY 7423

IMAGE: GREEN PURCHASING POLICY EMAIL

PDF: AGENDA FOR APPROVAL OF POLICY 7423

WORD: POLICY 7461

PDF: AGENDA TO APPROVE POLICY 7461

Recycled Paper Purchase

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: Unity Charter School uses a sign out process for paper usage. Teachers are not allowed to bring in their own paper. This allows us to make sure that paper is made from mostly recycled material. Since moving to a sign out process our paper usage has decreased dramatically as is evident from the email attached that was shared with all our teachers. Supply 2017-2018 2018-2019 2019-2020 (YTD) Copier Paper $4,160.00 $3,344.00 $780.00 We have also uploaded proof of purchases of recycled copier paper.

PDF: PAPER USAGE REQUIREMENT EMAIL

PDF: RECYCLED PAPER PURCHASE DOCUMENTATION - WBMASON

PDF: RECYCLED PAPER PURCHASE DOCUMENTATION - ASPEN

Healthy School Environments

Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: We ran a program that focused of transportation which included anti-idling education. The students started a campaign to inform the community about the dangerous affects of idling. They created permanent signage to be displayed along the car pick up line. They also created bumper stickers that would hopefully reach the greater community about the dangers of idling. No idling has been addressed at the board, it has been communicated to all stakeholders via email, and it is in our student handbook. The public was educated about the program via our Facebook page. The students did presentations about idling to 50 lower school students. Paper signs are posted in the school from their campaign as well.

IMAGE: ANTI-IDLING PRESENTATION TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WORD: ANTI-IDLING GIRL SCOUT FACEBOOK POST

POWERPOINT: ANTI-IDLING EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT POWER POINT USED IN CLASSES

PDF: ANTI-IDLING EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT DOCUMENTATION HANDBOOK

IMAGE: CLOSE UP PIC OF NEW SIGNS

IMAGE: PIC TO SHOW ROW OF SIGNS

Classroom Cleanup Protocol & Practices

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: As we work to improve the health of your students and building, we have "greened" our classroom clean up procedures and formalized data collection of such. All teachers, custodians, and kitchen staff were required to attend webinars and read an article on classroom green cleaning. Green Classroom cleaning procedures were created for teachers as well as a custodial documentation log for the teachers to complete daily as to the condition of their classrooms in 2018 and continue today. Theses data points are collected by our Executive Director and are utilized in discussions with our custodian for improvement. To encourage and remind teachers to follow the practices, an in house green cleaning video was created by the students and the integrated arts teacher that was shared with the staff.Video would not upload: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vyY2UhKNSCVDnae1WH8vDtR57pbHvolU/view?usp=sharing We participate in the NJ Clean Communities "Slam Dunk the Junk" clean up every year in the spring since 2012 and receive a grant for trash/recycling/Terracycle bins because of our efforts. The event was cancelled due to COVID 19 school closures. Pictures from 2018 attached and the school newsletter showing our plan to participate in April. We also share green cleaning tips to families, also found in the newsletter.

PDF: CLASSROOM CLEANUP PROTOCOL & PRACTICES DOCUMENTATION EMAIL

WORD: ADOPT A SPOT DOCUMENTATION

PDF: CLASSROOM CLEANUP PROTOCOL & PRACTICES DOCUMENTATION- SLAM DUNK

PDF: CLASSROOM CLEANUP PROTOCOL & PRACTICES DOCUMENTATION-INSPECTION

PDF: CLASSROOM CLEANUP PROTOCOL & PRACTICES DOCUMENTATION- NEWSLETTER TO FAMILIES AND PUBLIC

Innovation Projects

Innovative Project #1

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: In the spring 2014 Unity Charter School was able to acquire more outdoor space through a new agreement with their landlord.Once a rolling wooded hill, Super Storm Sandy had decimated the space. The landlord has created a grassy lower field play area which we were thrilled to have. After a year of use, the lower filed had become a dirt field. Every piece of grass was gone and when dry the field was so dusty that we could not use it. In the winter of 2016 students in the grades 1 and 2 learning group presented their ideas on how best to revitalize the lower field. Both grass and synthetic turf were presented as options to the Board of Trustees by the children. In 2018, the Board then began planning on how to have a sustainable, organic, living grass field for all students to play on. They formed a committee of teachers, parents, and students and regularly met to discuss their vision for the field. Landscaping companies were interviewed and soil samples were analyzed. They collected a rain report to see if sprinklers were needed and if so how often they were to be turned on.It was found that the bluegrass sod, over watering along with exceptional heat caused a fungal growth to kill off the sod. We ended up using Lincoln Landscaping for the eco-friendly sod installation in the summer of 2018. The plan was to witch to rescue sod and feeding and watering regimen that would occur over the spring and summer along with creating a schedule for the school year to rotate use of the filed to allow it to root. With much care, compost, and students "overseeding" and raking the field each fall, we have a beautiful organic grass field to play on.

PDF: **LOWER FIELD MEETING NOTES**

PDF: **LANDSCAPER REPORT**

PDF: **RAINFALL DATA**

PDF: **SOIL ANALYSIS**

PDF: **SOIL ANALYSIS 2**

PDF: **LOWER FIELD BEFORE/AFTER PICTURES**

Learning Environment

Curriculum Mapping

30 Points

School District

Program Summary: Unity Charter School has always infused the Education for Sustainability Standards when developing, maintaining and mapping out its curriculum. Unity's curriculum is aligned to the NJ State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards as well. Every subject taught at our school is mapped from the beginning of the year to the end with overarching questions and and focuses on sustainability. Attached are a varied sampling of the maps for various subjects and grades so you can see how the EfS standards and indicators are a part of what we teach in every subject, not separate from it. Our units of study were developed by

various teachers who worked with our sustainability coordinator and Executive Director to verify that the EfS standards and indicators aligned to the skills to be taught, were developmentally appropriate, allowed for deep open discussion and discourse with the material, and built from one year to the next.

PDF: SPANISH -K

PDF: SPANISH -1

PDF: THIRD GRADE MATH MODULE 1 EFS

PDF: GRADE 8 ELA

PDF: LOWER SCHOOL PERSONAL LEARNING PLAN

Future Ready Schools - New Jersey Certification

10 Points

School

Program Summary: Unity Charter School exemplifies academic excellence, infusing Education for Sustainability throughout our school culture. Student agency drives critical thinking and advocacy through a constructivist learning approach to education. We are committed to making a meaningful impact towards a sustainable future. Unity Charter will set a new paradigm for public school education and sustainability. Our students will be global citizens who change the world for the better. We exist in an information age, powered by new technology connecting people, ideas, data, and content in rapidly-changing ways. As we work to prepare students for this world, we must ensure our schools provide them with the technology-rich environments they need in order to be engaged and successful members of a digital society and workforce. Science and technology are integral parts of each individual's life. Although science is a complex and dynamic body of knowledge and processes, we believe that students of all academic levels can and will achieve individualized goals. By using an integrated approach to science and technology, students will understand that learning doesn't happen in a vacuum. The development of curiosity, critical thinking, and inquiring minds is of utmost importance in a democratic society. Investigative, hands-on procedures most effectively accomplish these processes. In an increasingly complex world, technology has sped the pace of advancements in science and industry. It has effectively shortened distances between places and made the world smaller. Real-time communication allows businesses and governments, as well as individuals, to share news and information twenty-four hours a day. It provides individuals a platform for creating, not just accessing content, and it requires a level of sophistication unparalleled in human history to be competitive in the labor market. In the Information Age, knowledge and skill are power but creativity and adaptability reign supreme. Additionally, as the knowledge and skills required in the workplace grow more complex, so too does the demand for students to learn what used to be advanced skills at younger and younger grades. As such, we are reaching a breakpoint. Developmentally, students can only handle so much advanced content before the boundaries are breached. The solution is to modify the approach. Let us not try to make the cup of knowledge larger so that we can fit more into it, for it will reach a limit. Let us instead change the contents of the cup. An ounce of water weighs just over half a pound, but an ounce of mercury weighs nearly one whole pound. Though the volume remains the same, changing the contents of the cup increases the density of content. Due to the limitations of the quantity of content that can fit into a school year, it is our belief that learning, more so than ever before, must be centered on the learner, not on the content. For today's kindergarten class, the world they will live in will not require them to recite facts and details or know the U.S. Presidents in order, but it will require them to deftly adapt to ephemeral circumstances and generate creative solutions to problems unknown to us today. For these reasons, it is our belief that students learn through experiencing individualized content within the context of social, interdependent group situations, through problem-based learning, and while accessing information in innovative ways. Learning experiences should be centered on the child and based on authentic problems that demand

inventive solutions. Educational orientations should stress intrinsic values that view education as an end and a good in itself with inherent value and meaning. Moving away from education as an instrumental view, and toward an intrinsic view allows education to move students from stressing purpose and product to one that stresses process. In order to accomplish this, education must be constructivist, engaging, meaningful and collaborative instead of functional and passive. Education is our greatest resource in creating a vision of continuous co-evolution where learning and society are engaged in a process of mutual transformation. Using this transformative process, education becomes an agent for change. When it is constructive, it also allows students to develop and possess their own meaning of learning. This higher order approach to student sense making is transformative and allows students to work toward the principles of sustainability, which can be complex and challenging. Students are engaged in activities where they have the opportunity to construct their knowledge of subject content using technology as a tool for learning. With our 1:1 Chormebook initiative, students have access to the tools they require to independently construct this knowledge outside of the traditional school building allowing the construction of 21st century skills. A constructivist approach to education, with an emphasis on capacity building, assists us in empowering students to work toward a sustainable future where they become advocates for a better world. As educators, we believe that we must develop conditions that allow for self-organizing behavior to propagate. This, in turn, allows students to respond creatively to a changing environment.

PDF: FUTURE READY SCHOOLS CERTIFICATION DOCUMENTATION-FUTURE READY INDICATORS SHEET

PDF: FUTURE READY SCHOOLS CERTIFICATION DOCUMENTATION_FR EMAIL

Outdoor Classroom

10 Points

School

Program Summary: At Unity we look at our entire campus as an outdoor classroom. We use the garden regularly for science, math and reading as well as exploratory play which is critical learning for our learners. We do have a designated outdoor teaching space (picture attached) where an entire class can sit an participate in a lesson together. The student created cob bench is nested next to our bog area and native species garden which makes it easy for science lessons! Teachers are requited to meet with our Sustainability Coordinator to generate lessons that are taught outside and incorporate the outdoors.The meetings are held late winter/early spring to plan for the growing season and the lessons roll into the fall and winter. "Defining the Outdoor Classroom" was required reading for all of our lower school staff. Due to COVID 19 school closures, we were unable to hold those sessions this year but have trained our news staff on the outdoor classroom and how to utilize it. Each class attends a field trip every month to use this lovely planet as our outdoor classroom as well. Trips were held at the Urban Garden in Morristown, BrookHallow Farm in Boonton, and Cooper Grist Mill. Unfortunately our trips to Sandy Hook, Ringing Rocks, PA and Fosterfields Farm NJ as well as our overnight trips to Ocean Beach, NJ and Sea Camp at Cape May were cancelled. To be sure that our students continued their learning in the outdoors, we provide outdoor experiences every Friday during distance learning for our families through our choice board activities.Some more information in this article: https://www.tapinto.net/towns/morristown/sections/in-the-schools/articles/unity-charter-school-continues-to-sow-a-passion-for-the-environment

PDF: OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DOCUMENTATION-DEFINING THE OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

PDF: OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DOCUMENTATION-_OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES EMAIL

PDF: OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DOCUMENTATION- MIDDLE SCHOOL EMAIL

IMAGE: OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DOCUMENTATION-PICTURE OF OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

PDF: OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DOCUMENTATION REPORT, LESSON PLAN & PICTURES

PDF: OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DOCUMENTATION- LEARNING OUTSIDE DURING DISTANCE LEARNING

School Grounds

Biodiversity Project

10 Points

School

Program Summary: This school year we became an EcoSchools Certified Schoolyard Habitat due to our bio-diverse plants and animals! Worms, squirrels, birds of all kids, woodchucks, chipmunks, rabbits, snails, praying mantis and salamanders have all been found on ow campus. Monarch butterflies, our Green team found, were in short supply! We are constantly adding native species to our native plant garden on campus. This year we continued our focus on bringing in pollinators and in particular Monarch butterflies to campus. Next to our outdoor class room area, we have a bog and native plants area in which our Green Team planned to add to this spring. A Green Team member donated milkweed and butterfly weed to be planted in this native plant garden. Along with the golden rod donated from their home, over 30 plants were installed near the outdoor cob bench learning space. Due to COVID 19 teachers had to plant all of the plants. We cannot wait to show the students how they have grown while they were away!

PDF: **POLLINATOR INVOICE**

PDF: **BIODIVERSITY PROJECT DOCUMENTATION-PICTURES**

Student & Community Outreach

Green Team

10 Points

Bronze Required School District

Program Summary: Green Team is inclusive and open to all stakeholders and anyone who has an interest in forwarding the interests of our mission. For the 2019-2020 school year, the core team consists of the Coordinator of Sustainability, The Executive Director, two lower school teachers, members of the in-house lunch staff along with 26 students and their families. Actions are rolled out to, and performed by faculty, students, and staff members according to functional areas.The Sustainability Coordinator oversees the efforts and actions needed to educate the community of parents, maintain a facility that is as green as allowable by the landlord as well as create partnerships in the community. Through the Green Team's work, we have renewed our Eco Schools Green flag for the third time. The Green Team actively seeks out opportunities, field trips, and activities beyond the formal curriculum to infuse and maintain Education for Sustainability into the culture of the school, and its norms. They have created local pollinator gardens as well as new Monarch Garden on campus. They hosted "The Lorax" for all families to particpate in and collected data from every business in Morris Township for the Environmental Commission to help pass the single use plastic bag ban. The Green Team decided to hold "New to You" Book and Lego Day once a month at school which were extremely successful and placed books in every child's hand each month and helped to diversify the class libraries.

PDF: GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION

PDF: GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION-INVITION TO SCHOOL

PDF: GREEN TEAM ROSTER

IMAGE: GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION

PDF: GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION-NOTE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Community Education & Outreach

10 Points

Bronze Priority Silver Priority School

Program Summary: As our school only serves vegetarian dishes, we always teach about eating lower on the food chain and the benefits of a plant based diet. On Friday, January 24, 2020 Unity Charter School held Souper Game Night. This event was to teach the students and staff the benefits of eating lower on the food chain. All students voted on and prepared vegetarian or vegan soups in their learning groups. Students were educated in the benefits of vegetable protein and the impact of eating meat on the environment. Families were invited to bring vegetarian side dishes to compliment these soups. Families came in the evening to enjoy the free healthy food and play board games with their children and teachers. To compliment or education in plant based diets, this October 31 and December 20, we continued our tradition of "Bring Your Parents to Lunch" so families could partake in a zero-waste, vegetarian meal from our all vegetarian lunch program at the school. It was followed by all of the students teaching other students and members of the public about their Education for Sustainability projects. This year, our Green Team held a mug decoration table during Souper Game Night to educate parents about using reusable dishes, bowls, cups and utensils all of the time. The brand new mugs were repurposed from a local company that was going to dispose of them due to a printing error on them. During Souper Game Night, the Green Team also taught the families about the benefits of herbs as many were found right in our soups. The herb wheel was displayed and discussed and the online link shared with families to read over.

PDF: COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH DOCUMENTATION

PDF: COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH DOCUMENTATION

PDF: COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH DOCUMENTATION

Civic & Stewardship Volunteer Initiatives

10 Points

School

Program Summary: Unity Charter School encourages our students to make a positive impact on the world around them. This school year we were approached by the Morris Township Environmental Commission to help them gather information from business in the township about single plastic bag use. They wanted to ask the Township to pass a plastic bag ban but needed stakeholder information and wanted information to be shared with all of the businesses in the Township. Volunteer families from our Green Team took on this initiative and collected data from all businesses in the township. They also provided information about the woes of single plastic bags. On October 24, 2019 the Environmental Commission shared the finding with the Township Committee to help move forward a plastic bag ban. Unity's Green Team was invited to attend the meeting. Our school doe snot use single use plastics and we ask all our families to pack zero waste snacks and lunches so this fell in line perfectly with our mission. We are happy to announce

the plastic bag ban ordinance begins this July 1st!.

PDF: **CIVIC & STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS IN MORRIS TOWNSHIP**

PDF: **CIVIC & STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION PLASTIC BAGS STUDENT TALKING POINTS & LINK TO SURVEY**

PDF: **CIVIC & STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION- NEWSBEE ARTICLE**

PDF: **CIVIC & STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION- ORDINANACE**

IMAGE: **CIVIC & STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION INSTAGRAM POST**

IMAGE: **CIVIC & STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION INSTAGRAM- AGENDA POST**

Enrichment Programs through Partnership

10 Points

School

Program Summary: At Unity Charter School, we offer several free, during and after school enrichment programs. The two newset we wanted to share with you show that we are diversifying how we do community partnerships. Of course, we will always have sustainability and healthy plant based food choices in the forefront. Our vegetarian lunch program produces more scraps than we can handle with our indoor composters and we are unable to compost outside due to the landlord's request. If it were not for our partnership that created with Fosterfield's Living Historical Farm in Morris Township, part of the Morris Parks System, we would be in a real bind. Every Friday Unity's student volunteer, Stratton, and his family takes 5, five gallon buckets of our kitchen scraps to Fosterfield's where they created a compost bin for us in their large garden.https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c3aGm86r7hq_Lz7e8LDk3pMIgsgMQW8G/view?usp=sharing A representative from Fosterfield's and our student, Stratton, presented two workshops to our students in grades one through four on January 31, 2020. Students in grades one and kindergarten were to visit the farm this spring to see the compost in action but were not able to due to COVID 19 school closures. Our middle school students were slated to volunteer at the farm to help with weeding on our half days of school this spring. We plan to go next school year as this will be a long lasting partnership. Our second partnership is with SOAR,Student Outreach and Academic Reinforcement, in Morristown. This group offer academic support for students in need. We were able to offer free after school tutoring and busing to their facility to all of our 5th grade students that live in Morristown/Morris Township. We were also availed the opportunity to have our young men in grades K-5 join their Saturday reading programs for free. These programs were to zero cost to the school.

PDF: **FREDERICK DOUGLAS READING PROGRAM THROUGH PLATINUM MINDS**

PDF: **SOAR TUTORING APPLICATION PACKET**

IMAGE: **STRATTON DELIVERING COMPOST**

PDF: **PLATINUM MINDS INVITATION**

PDF: **FOSTERFIELD'S COMPOST WORKSHOP @ UNITY**

PDF: **VOLUNTEER UPDATE FROM FOSTERFIELDS**

Green Fair

10 Points

School

Program Summary: Our Sustainable Supper event has been a big success the past two year and

was set to be held on May 29, 2020. Unity Charter School holds the Sustainable Supper as a free event open to the public to help all families learn about diverse sustainable lifestyles. During world language classes all students learn about a country of their family's origin and talk with relatives to identify a traditional vegetarian meal from their heritage. Students bring in the recipe and as a school, create a vegetarian cookbook which is shared digitally a the event. The Green Team teaches the families how to make newspaper pots and plant seeds to start their vegetable gardens and both Grow it Green (the local community garden) and ShopRite have held workshops at the events in the past. TransOptions holds bike safety class in our parking lot and gives away new bike helmets while out PTO holds a bike sale where donated used bikes are sold for $10 each. This year the Wellness Wheels Bus from St. Barnabas Hospital was slated to come to our event along with the other three local groups.Due to COVID 9 school closures, the event could not be held BUT we worked hard to have each piece of the event taught to our families virtually! Students participated in cooking diverse vegetarian meals with our world language teacher and kitchen staff every week, a bike safety class with TransOptions was held during PE, paper pot making and seed planting was held by our sustainability coordinator, and a virtual field trip to Grow it Green's farm all happened via Zoom! The Sustainable Supper will be back in the spring!

PDF: **WELLNESS ON WHEELS BUS**

PDF: **SUSTAINABLE SUPPER FLYER 2019**

PDF: **SUSTAINABLE SUPPER FLYER 2017**

PDF: **VIRTUAL SUSTAINABLE SUPPER EVENTS**

WORD: **QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT- UCS SUSTAINABLE SUPPER**

"Green" Your Green Fair or School Event

10 Points

School

Program Summary: Our Green Team held family movie night on March 6, 2020 during Read Across America Week. Our goals were to educate community on consumption and waste : 1. Food was not served- by bringing you meal from home to share with your family will reduce food waste and singly wrapped items 2. "Carry In Carry Out" practice was started this year at all events so families follow our zero waste packed foods practice that our students follow during the school day. Garbage and recycling cans were placed out of sight of the event. This allowed families to see if they followed our practice or not as they completed their meals and the movie. We had a discussion as a group after the movie about what they had to dispose of and how they could reduce that in the future. This was a poignant moment for some of our families. 2. Reduce energy use by using only necessary lights during the event 3. The event was publicized with out paper. We used social media and email to notify families and the community at large. 5. The movie shown was "The Lorax" as it's story of consumption and waste is evident. It also tied into the Middle School's project on Sustainable Fashion which was occurring simultaneously. We found it as a way to have our youngest learners exposed to the cost of our "throw away" fashion practices. All classes also read the story that week and held discussions about consumption and waste. We had approximately 100 people attend this event and cost us nothing to hold as the Green Team and their teachers ran it.

PDF: **SUSTAINABLE MESSAGE INVITING FAMILIES TO ATTEND**

PDF: **THE LORAX VIRTUAL FLYER**

IMAGE: **INSTAGRAM POST OF MOVIE NIGHT 2020**

Student Learning

Education for Sustainability Kindergarten

5 Points

School

Program Summary: Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, our K/1 learning group focused on identifying, comparing and contrasting local and non-local regions. During Distance Learning, our students continued this study with modified plans and through the utilization of various platforms that allowed them to virtually visit various ecosystems and explore local and nonlocal plant/animal life. As a culminating project, they were asked to identify a local and non-local region, compare/contrast the two, and provide ways that people can help keep those regions healthy. Projects were created using recycled materials from home and could be presented in any format the student's chose.Students selected a variety of formats that included dioramas, Venn Diagrams, Slideshows, Lego creations and more. These visuals were used as students presented their information on Flipgrid, which allowed the entire class to view all presentations, ask questions and leave comments for their peers, and further their interest, knowledge, and opportunity for discourse surrounding the topic. Our K/1 students are now more aware of their sense of place, their responsibility for the Commons, and how we are all interconnected in our world. They have taken with them the knowledge that their actions have an impact on more than just themselves and they have a solid foundation for becoming environmental stewards who will do their part as global citizens to help sustain our Earth and make it a better place for themselves and future generations. Included in the attachments are: comprehensive lesson plans with the corresponding Education for Sustainability standards, online resources used during modified activities for virtual learning, student work samples and rubric samples, the rubric for the culminating project in both English and Spanish and the EfS Questionnaire.

PDF: UNIT PLAN & STANDARDS

PDF: DISTANCE LEARNING SUPPLEMENTAL ONLINE RESOURCES

PDF: PROJECT RUBRIC

PDF: EFS QUESTIONNAIRE

PDF: PROJECT WORK SAMPLES

PDF: SAMPLE STUDENT RUBRICS

Education for Sustainability 1st Grade

5 Points

School

Program Summary: Every year as a culminating project, my first graders reflect on the “Education for Sustainability” standard of Multiple Perspectives by creating a “Scrapbook.” This scrapbook encourages students to reflect on the impact that different teachers have had on their lives over the course of the year. In reflecting on the impact of each teacher, we learn that every person in our lives has different experiences and expertise to share with us (perspective). Valuing all the different teachers in our lives helps us recognize the strong impact of cultural diversity. The scrapbook project is designed to truly help students reflect on the diverse impact of teachers in a developmentally appropriate way. The children pick five teachers from their lives, and they must have at least one teacher from the following three different settings: home, school, and community. Children’s creativity is encouraged to shine forth as they decorate a page for each

teacher with pictures, work samples, and written statements about the impact each teacher has had on their life. The final page of the scrapbook, titled “Reflecting on My Year,” has two questions that require a written reflection. The first encourages students to share what their life would be like with only one teacher. The next question asks them to share their feelings on what it is like to have access to all these wonderful teachers in their lives. To celebrate the hard work each child puts into their Scrapbook, the students are encouraged to invite the teachers from their scrapbook to attend our “Education for Sustainability Showcase.” It is a beautiful moment, for both students and guests, to acknowledge the unique perspective each of us brings and imparts on those around us—as truly we are all teachers with something significant to share with others.

WORD: **EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY 1ST GRADE DOCUMENTATION-PLP SCRAPBOOK PICTURES**

WORD: **EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY 1ST GRADE DOCUMENTATION-PLP SCRAPBOOK RUBRIC**

PDF: **EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY 1ST GRADE DOCUMENTATION**

Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 English Language Arts

5 Points

School

Program Summary: For the third trimester of the 2019-2020 school year our students in grades 5-8 went on a journey looking through the lens of "Multiple Perspectives". As a middle school we watched the documentary "Class Divide" which focused on class division and gentrification in the West Chelsea neighborhood.This is the exact location where we took our middle schoolers on a field trip the previous spring to the walk the High Line. They had no idea the impact this wonderful park had on the locals who lived there before it became a park. The students then were broken into small groups with a mentor teacher. While with their mentor teacher they competed two lessons using data from the Census and learned the impact that the Census has on providing data for local programming and funding. Students then were assigned a city/town that was different than where they lived. Being that our school serves students from 45 different districts, the mentors had to pair students up with cities/town on an individual basis. Students then used the Census website to compare their city to where they lived and America's averages. They used the data along with research to identify a United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that they would take on. They then were to explain what they would do as an adult citizen in that community to meet the goal(s) of their choice. In June we planned to have a Sustainability Showcase in person where students presented their city and the actions they would take as an adult living there but due to COVID 19 closures, these presentations were virtual with their mentor and peer group.This project turned out to be incredibly timely and a springboard for more discussions focused on social justice.

PDF: **THIRD TRIMESTER PLP PROJECT DESCRIPTION & RUBRIC**

PDF: **FIFTH GRADER'S VIRTUAL PLP PRESENTATION**

PDF: **EFS QUES.ELA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Math

5 Points

School

Program Summary: This winter our students took a hard look at something they all participate in: fashion purchases. We took a deep dive into sustainable economics and wove it through

several curricular areas. They studied the evolving set of theories and practices of economics that integrates the economic, and social systems with the ecological systems required to support and maintain life on the planet. They came away from the project knowing and understanding 21st century economic practices and will produce and consume in ways that contribute to the health of the financial, social, and natural capital as they pertain to the fashion industry. Our study was launched with the middle school (grades 5-8) watching the documentary, "Fast Fashion" during school. Another viewing of the documentary was made open to the public on December 26, 2020. Students then selected an article of clothing or accessory to study the life-cycle of and to calculate the full cost of that item. Students were given the option to participate in our first ever Sustainable Fashion Show where all pieces were created from discarded clothing and other discarded materials. The Sustainable Fashion show ran during our Lower School Winter Concert so we had a standing room only crowd at the event! This was our goal so the students could spread their message of sustainable fashion to the masses. Math classes focused on calculating amounts of water needed to create a pairs of jeans, amounts of fabric scraps in landfills, and CO2 emissions in transportation of clothing from factories across the globe to the USA. This unit of study was wildly successful as every student in our school connected with it personally. Our students are now well versed in shopping for clothing responsibly and the downfalls of fast fashion.

PDF: EFS MATH DOCUMENTATION DIRECTIONS AND RUBRIC

PDF: SLIDESHOW USED DURING SUSTAINABLE FASHION DESIGN PERIOD

PDF: EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY GRADES 4-12 MATH DOCUMENTATION- PAPER BY STUDENT

PDF: EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY GRADES 4-12 MATH DOCUMENTATION-SUPPORTING SLIDESHOW DURING PRESENTATION BY STUDENT

PDF: EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY GRADES 4-12 MATH DOCUMENTATION- PICTURES

PDF: EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY GRADES 4-12 MATH DOCUMENTATION REPORT

Student and Staff Wellness

Policies to Promote Physical Activity

10 Points

District

Program Summary: During the school year, Grades K-4 meet on the playground for playtime before school starts each day from 7:45 am to 8:00 am. All children, Grades K-8 are provided with a daily outdoor recess time, unless the temperature is below 20 degrees or heavy rain. Unity hosts 4 whole commUnity movement events every year, an activity station day on Halloween called Harvest Happening, the fun run Winter Sprinter, a whole school Dance Off, and a summer Field Day. Our school holds a ski club after school hours and specialized interest groups during the school day to promote a variety of movement opportunities including outdoor winter activity, juggling, dancing, cooperative group games, yoga, and more. While the students have been engaged in Virtual Learning, lessons in math and science have had them exploring their neighborhoods. Students created art projects from materials in their backyard. They have been receiving weekly Physical Education lessons in both live, recorded, and "choose your own adventure" formats. Each week students use Fridays to try any number of offline activities given to them via choice board. Families set out on hiking trails, design chalk art, play games, and go on scavenger hunts as part of their school assignment. There is an active running challenge via Strava in which staff, students, and parents are joining their miles to go on a virtual National Park journey across the United States. We have partnered with TransOptions to bring bike safety to the students. While the scheduled bike swap and helmet fitting had to be postponed this year, we are

still holding a virtual bicycle event for the commUnity. Our end of year Virtual Field Day via FlipGrid (http://flipgrid.com/ucsfieldday2020) logged 1,079 entries with over 10,000 views of our community in action.

WORD: CLUBS

PDF: PHYSICAL EDUCATION CHOICE BOARD

PDF: FABULOUS FRIDAY CHOICE BOARD

WORD: REGULATION STUDENT DISCIPLINE

PDF: VIRTUAL FIELD DAY FLIPGRID

PDF: POLICIES TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DOCUMENTATION

Programs to Promote Physical Activity

10 Points

School

Program Summary: During the school year, Grades K-4 meet on the playground for playtime before school starts each day from 7:45 am to 8:00 am. All children, Grades K-8 are provided with a daily outdoor recess time, unless the temperature is below 20 degrees or heavy rain. Food rewards are not given at school but vouchers for added recess time is. Unity hosts 4 whole commUnity movement events every year, an activity station day on Halloween called Harvest Happening, the fun run Winter Sprinter, a whole school Dance Off, and a summer Field Day. Our school holds a ski club after school hours and specialized interest groups during the school day to promote a variety of movement opportunities including outdoor winter activity, juggling, dancing, cooperative group games, yoga, and more. While the students have been engaged in Virtual Learning, lessons in math and science have had them exploring their neighborhoods for number patterns, shapes, colors, and interesting finds. Students created art projects from materials in their backyard. They have been receiving weekly Physical Education lessons in both live, recorded, and "choose your own adventure" formats. Each week students are scheduled to use Friday to try any number of offline activities given to them via choice board. Families set out on hiking trails, design chalk art, play games, and go on scavenger hunts as part of their school assignment. There is an active running challenge via Strava in which staff, students, and parents are joining their miles to go on a virtual National Park journey across the United States. We have partnered with TransOptions to bring bike safety to the students. While the scheduled bike swap and helmet fitting had to be postponed this year, we are still holding a virtual bicycle event for the commUnity via Zoom!

PDF: PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DOCUMENTATION-BIKING CURRICULUM

IMAGE: PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DOCUMENTATION-BIKE LESSON PROMOTION

PDF: PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DOCUMENTATION-RUN/WALK CHALLENGE

PDF: PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DOCUMENTATION-CHOICEBOARD

PDF: VIRTUAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION PLAN

PDF: PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DOCUMENTATION-HIKING EVERY WEEK!

Staff Wellness Program

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: Many of our school events have a healthy theme and all staff are encouraged to participate. Our annual "HOOPLA" basketball game (staff vs 8th graders) and goat

yoga was a success. March 2020 we began our "steps challenge" which will run for 8 wks.(first and second prizes will be awarded to the individuals with the most steps). Staff have been invited to participate in an "Earth Day Eco Challenge" for the month of April, which will give them an opportunity to clean their communities while walking. The Health Office has a mandatory EpiPen/Glucagon training yearly and has a biennial CPR/First Aid Course. A mandatory seizure training will be provided by Epilepsy Services of NJ since Paul's Law was passed. Our school lunch program offers staff vegetarian lunches that include farm fresh vegetables daily. Our School Psychologist presented a staff workshop on "The Neurology of Mindfulness and How to Apply Mindfulness in the classroom and we were fortunate to have a life coach speak to the staff as well, on the concepts of mindfulness. The staff has "slowly infused these training's into their personal and instructional modes of operation". Staff wellness is not only important for our health, but for stability in our school and our commUNITY

IMAGE: **STAFF WELLNESS PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION**

IMAGE: **STAFF WELLNESS PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION**

IMAGE: **STAFF WELLNESS PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION**

IMAGE: **STAFF WELLNESS PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION**

IMAGE: **STAFF WELLNESS PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION**

IMAGE: **STAFF WELLNESS PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION**

Student Safety

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Promotion Initiatives

10 Points

School

Program Summary: Our school serves all of New Jersey and we have students traveling to us from over 45 different school districts within our great state. With that said, we have mostly families that carpool. Our office staff is always on hand to help arrange carpooling efforts for our families and does so with great privacy. We promote safe sustainable transportation through our work with TransOptions bike safety programs. Our PTO held bike sales ($10 a bike) for the past three years and planned to do so again this year. TransOptions provides free helmets for all children who attend. Since the event is held in the spring and could not be on campus due to COVID 19 school closures , we were able to hold virtual bike/walk the block events with TransOptions and a bike/helmet safety program .

PDF: **PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY AND PROMOTION INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION BIKE/WALK CHOICEBOARD**

PDF: **PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY AND PROMOTION INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION**

PDF: **PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY AND PROMOTION INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION BIKE THE BLOCK**

IMAGE: **PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY AND PROMOTION INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION-BIKE SAFETY ZOOM LESSON FOR FAMILIES**

PDF: **PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY AND PROMOTION INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION-BIKE SALE & SAFETY LESSONS 2019**

PDF: **CARPOOL DIRECTORY**

Waste Reduction & Recycling

Materials Reuse

10 Points

School

Program Summary: Our innovative project was one that was selected by our Green Team members. They excitingly talked abou tthe books they read and the Legos they built with during our meetings. Our sustainability coordinator chimed in with, "What happens with your books and Legos when you are done with them?" Our youngest students did not have an answer and some thought we could recycle Legos. Our older students who actually did projects about Legos knew they were not recyclable and actually had contacted Lego to have them create a take back program. We found out that they are doing that now! Most older students said they give their books to other people. We then decided that all of us liked books and Legos and nobody thought they should go in the trash, so why didn't we exchange them here? We then decided to hold a "New to You Book and Lego Give A Way Day" on November 15, 2020 to coincide with our participation in America Recycle Day. Our Green Team members manned a table filled with books than Legos that they resorted and reboxed. It was so wildly successful that the students held one every month! The community readily dropped off old books and Legos throughout the year to keep us MORE than stocked for each event. Though COVID 19 school closure stopped our April, May and June events, we are ready to hold this event again for the 2020-21 school year! Since we could not give away books this spring, we shared the free audible link so our students could have as many books to listen to at home while distance learning on our Friday Choice boards.

IMAGE: MATERIALS REUSE DOCUMENTATION-PICTURE ON EVENT

PDF: MATERIALS REUSE DOCUMENTATION-INSTAGRAM POSTS

IMAGE: ONLINE REGISTRATION FRO AMERICA RECYCLES DAY EVENT- NEW TO YOU BOOK & LEGO DAY

PDF: NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS ANNOUNCING EVENT

PDF: AUDIBLE LINK TO CONTINUE GETTING FREE BOOKS AT HOME DURING COVID 19- CHOICE BOARD