



Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Certification Report of Robert R. Lazar Middle School (Morris), a Sustainable Jersey for Schools bronze certified applicant.

Robert R. Lazar Middle School (Morris) was certified on August 13, 2017 with 160 points. Listed below is information regarding Robert R. Lazar Middle 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 Robert R. Lazar Middle School (Morris) is:

Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Robert R. Lazar Middle School (Morris) was approved for in 2017 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

District

Program Summary: The Montville Board of Education has adopted a sustainability policy on September 6, 2016. The policy indicates that the school district intends to make every effort to operate in such a way as to minimize its negative impact on the environment. The intent is to protect students, staff and community from any harmful substances as well as prepare students to live their lives with attention of environmental, social and economic responsibility. The policy has been posted on the district website and can be accessed at this link: <http://www.straussesmay.com/seportal/Public/DistrictPolicy.aspx?policyid=8541&search=Sustainability&id=f34af56915e34a96a2ae776e8b6b105a> In addition, the Board has included sustainability in its new Five Year Strategic Plan by incorporating the following goal: Continue to expand the district's efforts to meet the objectives of the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program

WORD: DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DOCUMENTATION

WORD: [DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [DISTRICT SUSTAINABILITY POLICY DOCUMENTATION](#)

Strategic Plan Implementation of Green Initiatives

10 Points

District

Program Summary: During the 2016-2017 School Year the Montville Township School District engaged in a process to develop a new five year strategic plan. The development process involved three public input sessions to identify the district's strengths and challenges as well as develop specific goals for the five year period 2017-2022. The plan included a number of health and wellness goals and also included one objective to continue to expand the district's efforts to achieve and maintain bronze status through the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program. Following the adoption of the Five Year Strategic Plan, the full report and plan was posted on the district website. A screenshot of the website is attached as documentation. While the plan was just adopted by the Board in April, a first quarter report on implementation progress was made to the Board on June 13th. A summary of the report is attached as documentation.

WORD: [STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN INITIATIVES DOCUMENTATION](#)

School District Foundation

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: The mission of the Montville Educational Foundation (MEF) is to enhance the quality of education and strengthen the community's commitment to the Montville Schools by:

- Fostering and promoting innovative and unique approaches for excellence in education;
- Broadening the superior and unique quality of the educational experience;
- Encouraging community-wide interest and involvement in the MEF by encouraging, seeking and accepting contributions of services, money and property, both real and personal, to accomplish these goals.

100% of the funds raised by the MEF are used to fulfill grant applications from teachers and other administrators whose innovative ideas and dreams of worthy school projects require additional funding to come to fruition. The MEF awarded Lazar Middle School with a \$1200 grant towards beehive initiative! Lazar's beehive will maintain permanent residence at Weeble Wobble Honey Farm in Washington, NJ. Bee keepers (Richard and Jessica Wyble) will care for the hive and share educational dialogue, videos and pictures with the 7th grade science class. The MEF also awarded at \$225 grant to Montville Township High School to support the Art Department's participation in The Memory Project. The Memory Project is a charitable nonprofit organization that invites art teachers and their students to create portraits for youth around the world who have faced substantial challenges, such as neglect, abuse, loss of parents, violence, and extreme poverty. The students are provided with colored pictures of these youth and then create portraits. The portraits help the children feel valued and important, to know that many people care about their well being, and to act as meaningful pieces of personal history in the future. For the art students,

this to be an opportunity to creatively practice kindness and global awareness.

PDF: [SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION DOCUMENTATION](#)

Diversity & Equity

Accessible Communications

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: Attached you will find a profile of the Montville Township Community. In order to have greater community outreach, we have instituted a monthly school district newsletter which is sent electronically to all parents and those community members who have subscribed. Previously there had been no direct communication with residents that did not have children enrolled in the district. We feel that the sharing of information on a monthly basis has greatly improved our communications and truly made them accessible. The district recently conducted a communications survey. A copy of the survey instrument is attached. A copy of the survey results are attached. The District Communications Survey was discussed at the Board of Education meeting on April 4, 2017 under the Superintendent's Remarks. An excerpt from the minutes of the April 4th meeting is attached as well as a copy of the PowerPoint which summarized the key survey results for the Board of Education. The Montville Township Public Schools include 5 elementary schools, one middle school and one high school serving 3,800 students. The Montville Township Community is comprised of 21,530 residents and has been growing over the past 70 years since its days as a farming community. Montville has become more racially diverse since 2000. The percentage of white residents has decreased from 85% in 2000 to 78% in 2010. The percentage of Asian residents has increased by 5.5% to 18.5%. Nearly 20% of the population is foreign born. India is the largest source, accounting for 23.6% of the foreign born population, followed by China with 16.7%. This demographic information is drawn from the district's Demographic Study which was completed by Statistical Forecasting, Inc. in the Spring of 2016. The Communications Survey that was conducted provided current information as to the preferred way to connect with parents and gave us insight as to the usefulness of social media in sharing important information with parents. Since the majority of parents indicated that they do not read a daily newspaper, these results have given us an opportunity to redesign the typical "media press release" that had previously been the standard method of disseminating information to the public.

PDF: [ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATIONS DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATIONS DOCUMENTATION](#)

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WORD: [ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATIONS DOCUMENTATION](#)

POWERPOINT: [ACCESSIBLE COMMUNICATIONS DOCUMENTATION](#)

Food & Nutrition

School Gardens

10 Points

School

Program Summary: The Lazar Middle School Garden covers 7500 square feet. It contains 5 geometric shaped beds that contain native perennial plants, 10 raised beds (4' x 8' and larger), and 30 Earth boxes that grow organic fruits and vegetables nearly all year. We practice restorative agriculture techniques, promote biodiversity of plant and animal species and work to close the loop on waste created in our garden. Matthew Myers, the teacher who oversees the garden, uses it to teach how humans interact with the environment, weather, and recycling of nutrients in a garden ecosystem. In addition to growing plants, the garden area has a weather station, rainwater collection system and compost bins.

WORD: [SCHOOL GARDENS DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [SCHOOL GARDENS DOCUMENTATION](#)

Green Cleaning

Green Cleaning Policy & Plan

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: The district has adopted a Green Cleaning Policy and has a Green Cleaning Plan to help guide our custodial and maintenance staff under the guidance of our Facilities Manager. We feel that this is an area which not only serves to limit allergens that our students and staff might be exposed to but also helps to limit our impact on the environment through the use of environmentally friendly cleaning products, equipment and strategies. Both of these documents have been uploaded.

WORD: [GREEN CLEANING POLICY & PLAN DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [GREEN CLEANING POLICY & PLAN DOCUMENTATION](#)

Green Purchasing

Green Purchasing Policy

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority District

Program Summary: The Montville Township Board of Education has adopted a policy on Green

Purchasing. It was discussed at a public board meeting and was enthusiastically approved by the Board. The Board This Policy - Number 8542 - has been posted on the district website and can be viewed at: <http://www.straussesmay.com/seportal/Public/DistrictPolicy.aspx?policyid=8542&search=Green+Purchasing&id=f34af56915e34a96a2ae776e8b6b105a> The Board feels that the title of this policy focuses on the "purchasing" or acquisition of materials and supplies and does not truly convey the paradigm shift in consumption that it supports within the school district. This policy is very much in line with the green thinking that the district is actively trying to incorporate into our culture. We are focusing on reducing the need to purchase items that will eventually end up as waste and products that do not pose a health hazard to students, faculty and the environment. Having this policy in place has guided us to replace existing water fountains with bottle-filling water fountains that allow students to use re-usable water bottles rather than consuming water from disposable water bottles.

WORD: [GREEN PURCHASING POLICY DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [GREEN PURCHASING POLICY DOCUMENTATION](#)

Healthy School Environments

Anti-Idling Education & Enforcement

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: As part of our efforts to qualify for the Bronze certification through the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program, we are looking to endorse actions that will improve the environment at our schools. Encouraging parents not to idle their cars when waiting to pick up students at school is one means to achieve this. See Item J.4 on page 7 of the October 18, 2016 Board of Education Agenda. Information on this initiative was included in the district's October newsletter sent to parents, staff and community members. As additional documentation of the implementation, please see the email chain of correspondence between the Superintendent of Schools and the Chief of Police.

WORD: [ANTI-IDLING EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [ANTI-IDLING EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [ANTI-IDLING EDUCATION & ENFORCEMENT DOCUMENTATION](#)

Outdoor Air Quality Awareness Program

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: The Montville Township School District has a link off the website's main page to provide daily updates to the Air Quality Index Information as provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The November 2016 district newsletter contained an extensive explanation of the Air Quality Index information. The newsletter was sent to all parents and widely distributed throughout the community. In addition, the district has developed a protocol for days on which the air quality is determined to be poor.

PDF: [OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY AWARENESS PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

Innovation Projects

Innovative Project #1

10 Points

School District

Program Summary: On February 7, 2017, the Montville Township Board of Education adopted a resolution (Item J.5 on the attached agenda) to designate the district as a "Stigma Free School District." This stems from a initiative launched by the Morris County Freeholders. In part, the resolution states: WHEREAS, Stigma?Free Communities aim to inspire public interest and open dialogues about stigma, raise awareness of the disease of mental illness and create a culture wherein residents who have the disease of mental illness feel supported by their community and neighbors and feel free to seek treatment for the disease without fear of stigma and; WHEREAS, promoting awareness that there can be no "health" without mental health will break down barriers and encourage residents of all ages to be mindful of their mental health and ask for help when needed, and; WHEREAS, local resources are available to treat the disease of mental illness so no one resident needs to suffer alone or feel hopeless, and; WHEREAS, establishing Stigma?Free Communities will raise awareness of resources and encourage residents to engage in care as soon as the need is identified so recovery can begin, hope is inspired and tragedies are avoided, and; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montville Township School District recognizes the community needs and supports the efforts of the County of Morris and the Township of Montville. This initiative stemmed from information gleaned from the district's Climate and Culture survey which revealed that student stress and anxiety were a concern at all of the district schools and something the district's Strategic Plan aims to address. The Lazar Middle School has also obtained grant funding through Atlantic Healthcare services to develop a stigma free toolkit that can be used by other schools.

PDF: [INNOVATIVE PROJECT #1 DOCUMENTATION](#)

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Learning Environment

Student Participation in the Arts

10 Points

District

Program Summary: The Montville Township School District takes great pride in the programs it provides in the visual and performing arts. All students at the elementary level have weekly classes in art and general music. Beginning in 4th grade, students have the option of participating in band or orchestra, with instrumental instruction being provided weekly by our certified

teachers. Our performing groups are outstanding and have won numerous awards. Our high school marching band won the national championship in their division in 2015. The district was extremely proud to be selected by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation as one of the "Best Communities for Music Education." Concerts and theater productions which are presented at all levels are well attended.

PDF: [STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS DOCUMENTATION](#)

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PDF: [STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS DOCUMENTATION](#)

Student & Community Outreach

Green Team

10 Points

 Bronze Required School District

Program Summary: A District Green Team was formed in May 2016. The Green Team has met throughout the 2016-2017 school year and a summary of those meetings is attached. Through the 2016-2017 school year, the Green Team has been focused on undertaking those initiatives and tasks which would guide the district towards attainment of Bronze Level certification in the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Program. The Green Team supported the adoption of various policies by the Montville Township Board of Education (Sustainability, Green Cleaning, Green Purchasing, etc.) as well as the development of a district protocol for days when there is concern about the outdoor air quality. The committee also supported other initiatives, such as the Anti-Idling Practices at all of the district schools. It has been a productive year to date and the Green Team is looking forward to continuing to advance sustainability and green initiatives throughout the district.

PDF: [GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [GREEN TEAM DOCUMENTATION](#)

Enrichment Programs through Partnership

10 Points

School

Program Summary: The Lazar Beehive Team applied for grant funding through the Montville Education Foundation to acquire a bee hive and bees. The purpose of the grant project is to provide all seventh grade classes will be able to use the hive as mini-research station, while studying Colony Collapse Disorder and the importance of bees. Following the receipt and decoration of the hive by the students, the hive has been added to the bee yard of the Weeble Wobble Honey farm in Washington, NJ by the end of the current school year. The students are able to observe the hive via webcam. The first harvesting of honey from the hive allowed students to see jars of honey and honey sticks at the annual Towaco Fest held on October 1, 2016.

PDF: [ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP DOCUMENTATION](#)

Student Learning

Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Social Studies

10 Points

School

Program Summary: The Lazar Middle School developed the Living Lessons Program in 2005. The program is presented to the entire middle school study body every other year. It was last presented on May 14, 2015 and will be presented again in May 2017. Living Lessons - Voices, Visions and Values is one of the largest gatherings of survivors and motivational speakers who are willing to share their stories with students. The tradition of bringing individuals with powerful messages together, under one roof for one day, to teach students about courage, compassion and character and how these cherished liberties are tied to the U.S. Constitution form the basis for this unique program and learning experience for Lazar Middle School students. Samples of student letters to the speakers are attached.

WORD: [EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY GRADES 4-12 SOCIAL STUDIES DOCUMENTATION](#)

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Education for Sustainability Grades 4-12 Technology

10 Points

School

Program Summary: Seeing the demand in NJ and across the nation for students to be prepared to fill STEM jobs, Marisa Castronova-Wos and Jessica Shackil of the Parsippany School District worked together to develop STEM PALS, a cross-district and cross-grade initiative to get students excited about science, technology, engineering and math. The program emphasizes the value of discourse among students and also stresses the social practices and responsibility prevalent in the scientific community. Being a STEM PAL means being part of a larger scientific community and engaging in the process of mentorship and communication with other young scientists. In addition, teachers are considered STEM PALS and engage in mentorship and communications with each other. The students engaged in a number of challenges including the "Packing Peanuts Challenge." In the challenge students were asked to develop an ecologically friendly alternative to petroleum-based products so companies would have a more sustainable alternative to use when shipping items to customers. This program will be featured on an upcoming episode of Classroom Closeup. A copy of the Assessment Rubric has been uploaded.

PDF: [EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY GRADES 4-12 TECHNOLOGY DOCUMENTATION](#)

PDF: [EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY GRADES 4-12 TECHNOLOGY DOCUMENTATION](#)

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Student and Staff Wellness

School Wellness Council

10 Points

 Bronze Priority  Silver Priority School

Program Summary: The Lazar Middle School Wellness Committee has been in operation for a number of years. The Committee is comprised of a cross section of the school faculty and has a parent representative. The committee is focused on all aspects of student and faculty health from cafeteria menu selections to plans to increase student activity during the school day. The Lazar Wellness Committee meets monthly - fourth Wednesday of the month. The meeting dates for the 2016-2017 school year are: September 28, 2016; October 26, 2016, November 23, 2016; December 21, 2016; January 25, 2017; February 22, 2017; March 22, 2017; April 26, 2017 and May 24, 2017.

WORD: [SCHOOL WELLNESS COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [SCHOOL WELLNESS COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [SCHOOL WELLNESS COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION](#)

WORD: [SCHOOL WELLNESS COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION](#)