



2022 Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grants Program Funded By NJEA



Quotes from \$10,000 Grant Recipients (Listed alphabetically by county)

"I'm very proud of PS 20's Going Green in Greenville Project. The project will allow young learners in a brick-and-mortar area of the City to enjoy the beauty, hope, and benefits of gardening." - *Norma Fernandez, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, Jersey City Public Schools, Hudson County*

"The Elms Elementary Outdoor Environmental Learning Garden will focus on growing appropriate and diverse native plants to attract, support, and protect native pollinators. Elms Elementary is excited to create a site where pollinator-friendly flowering plants can grow, and pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, beetles, and moths can live. Students will learn about the importance of pollinators and get to see insects up close! Students will also cultivate vegetables to share with our local food pantry. This initiative supports the NJ State Science Standards as we educate the community about the importance of insect pollinators to the ecology and the food chain. The grant funds will be used to educate staff, students and the Jackson Community by providing hands-on, interactive learning experiences." - *Michael Burgos, Principal, Elms Elementary School, Jackson Township Public Schools, Ocean County*

"This Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant, and the Rocket Retreat Room it will help create, is going to have a huge impact on our students. Our school culture and climate is built upon relationships, empowering leadership, and communication, and this funding will provide us the opportunity to forge a physical space to cultivate those core elements. On behalf of Intermediate East, we're extremely grateful to Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the NJEA for allowing us to turn the dream of the Rocket Retreat Room into reality." - *Bryan Madigan, Principal, Toms River - Intermediate East, Toms River Regional School District, Ocean County*

"Florence M. Burd has been successfully defining what sustainability looks like in a New Jersey elementary school. With multiple consistent recycling programs, trash audits, composting, solar panels, and full student environmental awareness through assemblies and programming, we are so excited to add new and updated technology to our systems. Our industrial composter will help reduce our food waste, supply rich nutrient supply back into our earth, as well as teach our students the possibilities of helping the environment by utilizing machines. We are thankful for this award because while our school is small, we can make a huge earthly impact with this new tool." - *Nicole Dilke, Principal, Florence M. Burd Elementary School, Andover Regional School District, Sussex County*

Select Quotes from Select \$2,000 Grant Recipients (Listed alphabetically by county)

"Working with our student led Green Team and Sustainability Managers, Delran Middle School is excited to lessen our impact on the environment by expanding our ability to recycle a wide range of materials from our school and community. Our composting initiative has dramatically decreased the food waste from Delran Middle School. Now, the staff and students will be able to remove non-food waste from our waste stream. In the end, we hope to increase our number of environmentally conscious students and build a more environmentally conscious school." - *Mike McHale, Principal, Delran Middle School, Delran Township School District, Burlington County*

"Sustainability is an integral part of our work at Princeton Public Schools. I am thrilled that Johnson Park, Riverside and Princeton High School have been awarded grants from Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the New Jersey Education Association. The educational signage, reusable plates, and sustainably-made greenhouse are innovative

and creative projects that will benefit our students. Congratulations to each of these schools and their Green Teams!" - *Dr. Carol Kelley, Superintendent, Princeton Public Schools, Mercer County*

"Johnson Park Elementary is eager to transition away from disposable plates and cups for classroom parties and parent functions. We are delighted that the Sustainable Jersey for Schools-NJEA grant will allow us to build a supply of reusable service ware and test out a flatware retriever in our cafeteria. I am incredibly proud of the Johnson Park Green Team and all of its efforts to make our school more sustainable." - *Angela Siso Stentz, Principal, Johnson Park Elementary School, Princeton Public Schools, Mercer County*

"Princeton High School is grateful to Sustainable Jersey for Schools and NJEA for awarding our school this grant. It is nice to be recognized for the hard work and dedication of the students, faculty, staff, parents, and community members on the PHS Green Team. Our students and staff are dedicated wholeheartedly to creating, implementing, and managing projects and activities to improve the sustainability of our school, such as the naturalization of Princeton's new basin by the tennis courts. We look forward to adding a sign to describe the importance of native plants in our community with these funds." – *Frank Chmiel, Principal, Princeton High School, Princeton Public Schools, Mercer County*

"I am very pleased that Riverside has been recognized with an NJEA-Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant that benefits our students and helps their amazing garden expand. I appreciate the innovation, teamwork, and creativity in designing a new greenhouse made from recycled plexiglass. By thinking creatively about sustainability, our garden educators and elementary school students will get a new space to learn about greenhouses while growing microgreens." – *Nancy Whalen, Principal, Riverside Elementary School, Princeton Public Schools, Mercer County*

"We are thrilled to receive this grant to help enhance our sustainability efforts in our community garden. The grant will allow us to update our garden beds, plant new crops, provide education to the students and the community, and supply food to Elijah's promise, a local community food bank. We are so grateful for this opportunity." - *Jennifer Knapp, Principal, Bartle Elementary School, Highland Park School District, Middlesex County*

"South Plainfield High School is so grateful for the Sustainable Jersey School's facilitation of the grant program that enabled the generous \$2,000 donation from the NJEA. We appreciate the ability to pave a "green" pathway that will allow our students to study disease control in mosquitoes in our science classroom. The incredible gift of a MinION DNA sequencing device is the cutting-edge technology necessary for the creation of the next extraordinary generation of problem solvers. Thank you." - *John Foscolo, Principal, South Plainfield High School, South Plainfield School District, Middlesex County*

"Aldrich School is made up of students and staff that create a unified community of kindness, care, and encouragement. The climate is focused on continuous growth and diligence to thrive. The creation of this grant was driven by this positive attitude and the goals were focused on improving student achievement through sensory stimulation. Our vision for the sensory path will be colorful, creative, and a playful way for kids to build sensory connections in the brain that are responsible for sight, touch, and sound. This pathway will enable our students to complete complex, multi-stage tasks and strengthen their motor skills such as balance, hand-eye coordination, and spatial awareness. When a student needs an activity or movement break, they can plan opportunities to leave the classroom during the day and complete the sensory path in the designated hallway. In our school environment at Aldrich, we have noticed students needing more opportunities for sensory stimulation to build and improve their stamina to learn. When various movement and positioning opportunities are available, students are more engaged in their learning and are more focused on the instructional tasks throughout the school day. Our goal is to continue to offer students sensory stimulation, so that we can continue to see an

increase in academic growth.” - *Chrissy Remo, Principal, Aldrich Elementary School, Howell Township Public School District, Monmouth County*

"We are so excited to receive this Sustainable grant for our school! Adding a Water Bottle Filling Station for our staff and students will lead to improved health not only by increasing the intake of water for our students rather than sugary drinks, but also by improving the quality of the water consumed due to having a filtered system for water bottle filling. We are looking forward to having this in place in our school in the near future!" - *James P. Quinn, Jr., Ed.D, Principal, Newbury School, Howell Township Public School District, Monmouth County*

“The Taunton School Green Team is extremely grateful to Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the NJEA for awarding our school a \$2,000 grant, and we are beyond excited about our “Farm to Table Imagination Playground” project that will teach our primary learners all about sustainable practices and healthy living.” - *Brooke M. Napoli, Principal, Taunton School, Howell Township Public School District, Monmouth County*