



Where Green Living Begins

812.349.2020 gogreendistrict.com

3400 SOUTH WALNUT STREET • BLOOMINGTON, IN 47401



FREE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OFFERED BY “THE DISTRICT”

February 9, 2011

Dear Educators:

This is a new year and a new beginning for the Monroe County Waste Management District now “The District...Where Green Living Begins.” Our new name, logo, and web site better mirror our mission and services and 2011 continues with free environmental education programming. Teachers can support curriculum with the District’s offerings by calling 349-2866/2020 to book presentations. Teachers and students may also ask environmental questions on Facebook and Twitter.

The District’s free environmental education presentations are designed to help integrate environmental literacy into every classroom. The Monroe County Solid Waste Management District (District) is here to help you strengthen environmental literacy which can involve all subject areas. If you don’t know where to begin or you want to enhance what you offer, the District can help you. We are also happy to talk with you about the opportunities the schools have for modeling green communities.

Students today can tell you more about the Amazon rain forest than the natural environment they live in and how to protect it! Disconnection to nature is linked to many illnesses in society including the impact of NOT reducing, reusing, and recycling. Be a part of the *reconnection* by incorporating environmental education in your classroom and YOU don’t have to do it all yourself! The District’s instructional programs and activities build skills, abilities, and knowledge that meet state mandated standards in many subject areas. [Studies indicate that linking education and the environment can result in dramatic improvements in the effectiveness of education overall, including standardized testing.](#) It also boosts enthusiasm for learning and pride in accomplishments, and decreases discipline and attendance problems. In demonstrating environmental stewardship, we are only providing the curriculum listings on the website so please refer to the website for your personal hard copy. The District is a multifaceted agency that works to promote environmental literacy in Monroe County. Our innovative curriculum is based on science but is interdisciplinary.

The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation reviewed schools that adopted environmental education as the central focus of their academic programs. The results in all of the schools studied showed:

- * [Reading and mathematics scores improved.](#)
- * [Students performed better in science and social studies.](#)
- * [Students developed the ability to transfer their knowledge from familiar to unfamiliar contexts.](#)

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- * Students learned to “do science” rather than just “learn about science.”
- * Classroom discipline problems declined.
- * All students had the opportunity to learn at a higher level.

Similarly, a report by the State Education and Environment Roundtable found that using the environment as a context in which to integrate science, math, social studies, and language arts can result in greater academic achievement. *Closing the Achievement Gap: Using the Environment as an Integrating Context for Learning* reported remarkable improvements in academic achievement and behavior among students at 40 schools in 12 states.

Join the many other schools around the world who have discovered this vital link to the environment in classroom visits and on-site programs. Call our Media & Education Director to *schedule your programs now!*

GO TO gogreendistrict.com
For FREE Environmental Education sessions

Get Your Green On
Sincerely,

ELISA K. POKRAL

Media Contact: Elisa K. Pokral
Media and Education Director
Ph: (812) 349-2866/2020
E-mail: epokral@mcswmd.org