

Harrisonburg City Public Schools

The goal of this grant was to continue the successful MWEEs we had for 4th and 6th grades in the past while revising and expanding the field experience portion, the post activity portions, and the teacher professional development at the elementary level. HCPS has a multitude of partners who have supported MWEEs with our 6th grade students for the past several years. The partnerships include: Edith J. Carrier Arboretum, Shenandoah Soil and Water Conservation District, the Harrisonburg Education Foundation, JMU Stormwater Compliance Team, Virginia Headwaters Master Naturalists, JMU Stormwater Team, and the Roop Learning Community of pre-service teachers at JMU.

We had an extremely successful MWEE experience this year for all 4th, 6th and 7th graders in Harrisonburg City Public School Division. As the second year of this project, we improved on our successes from the first year and added an additional 600 students with a new 7th grade experience. In addition, we provided professional development for teachers at each elementary and middle school on the post experiences of the MWEE. In both grade level experiences, we worked with community partners to provide rotating stations that are developmentally appropriate to each grade level and aligned to science standards, through a full day off-site experience in our local community.

The feedback from students and teachers was very positive. It was fun to see the kids working and learning about the environment outside. Learning in nature was wonderful to see.