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**Black Horse Pike Regional School District**

**awarded $10,000 for sustainability project**

**Blackwood, NJ –** Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) announced that Black Horse Pike Regional School District has been awarded a $10,000 Sustainable Jersey for Schools grant. Ten $10,000 grants were distributed to fund a variety of projects including physical activity and wellness programs, an aeroponic greenhouse, school vegetable and rain gardens, food waste composting, mobile environmental carts, student green team capacity building, the greening of school festivals, bicycle racks, a creation station, an outdoor classroom, energy efficiency programs, enhanced recycling efforts and more.

**The Black Horse Pike Regional School District thanks Sustainable Jersey for Schools and all of its sponsors for bestowing the grant award honor upon our District.  We are very proud of our conservation efforts and our determination to improve the health and wellness of our students, staff and entire school community. The District recognizes the hard work performed by Jennifer Brown, leader of our wellness endeavors, and all of her collaborators, especially Mary-Alice Baratta, for without their labor, this grant would not have been made possible.  We will utilize the grant funding to expand our wellness efforts and to support our attempts to bring awareness to a healthier life style and motivate the school community to move towards healthier life choices.**

With this contribution NJEA has provided $500,000 to support a sustainable future for children across the state through the Sustainable Jersey for Schools program. “NJEA is proud to continue to work with Sustainable Jersey on this important program that directs resources into our schools,” said NJEA Secretary-Treasurer Sean Spiller. “It is our job to help create a new generation of engaged citizens and leaders. By emphasizing the value of sustainability, we also help ensure that we leave a better world for our students.” In addition to the grant funding, NJEA supports Sustainable Jersey for Schools as a program underwriter.

“Sustainable Jersey grantees help advance our continued goal to create a more sustainable New Jersey and world,” said Donna Drewes, co-director of Sustainable Jersey. “We look forward to the innovative projects and work that these schools and school districts will accomplish and we will share the tools, models and activities with other schools across the state.”

Proposals were judged by an independent Blue Ribbon Selection Committee. The Sustainable Jersey for Schools grants are intended to help school districts and schools make progress toward a sustainable future in general, and specifically toward Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification.

The Black Horse Pike School District ‘s School Wellness Councils will be promoting physical activity among student and staff by offering opportunities for physical activity throughout the day and after school. Students and staff will receive ongoing tips to support lifestyle changes that concentrate on health awareness, physical fitness and overall wellbeing.

***About Sustainable Jersey for Schools:***

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a certification program for public schools in New Jersey. It was launched by Sustainable Jersey, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward municipalities and schools as they pursue sustainability programs. To learn more, visit [www.SustainableJerseySchools.com](http://www.SustainableJerseySchools.com)

***About NJEA***

NJEA is the state’s largest association of education professionals, representing over 200,000 elementary and secondary teachers, administrators, higher education faculty, educational support professionals, retirees, and students preparing to become teachers. To learn more, visit [www.njea.org](http://www.njea.org).