



Mini Environmental Education

River by river and stream by stream, Pre-K-12 environmental education projects are helping to raise public awareness about the health of streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays and about the steps that can be taken to restore and protect them. Through this program, the Trust seeks to increase student awareness and involvement in the restoration and protection of the Bay its local streams and rivers through increasing student access to programs that provide meaningful outdoor learning experiences.



- 19** teachers participated
- 15-50%** increase in knowledge (pre/post test)
- 22** hours of professional development
- 720** students served
- 24** languages spoken at school

Hollifield Station Staff Environmental Literacy Workshop

19 HSES teachers had a meaningful watershed education experience to advance their environmental literacy of the Chesapeake Bay region. Teachers spent 2 days and 1 night at Port Isobel being trained by CBF staff members.

Check out the smiles of 19 Howard County Public School teachers who attended the teacher workshop on Port Isobel Island in the Chesapeake Bay on May 20 -21st. They can't stop talking about the experience even in the midst of student testing and end of the year school activities. Learning outside and engaged, the teachers walked away from this experience reenergized and ready to find ways to integrate meaningful watershed educational experiences into the curriculum.

Teachers learned about the Chesapeake Bay watershed and major challenges facing the health of it. Time was also spent learning about the Green School application process and planning future sustainable activities. Our teachers work extremely hard! If we want teachers to help protect the Bay, we must allow them to experience it for themselves. When this happens, they are more likely to develop a lifetime love of nature that will translate into a lifelong commitment to environmental

stewardship. Just like an oyster, I know this experience will filter down to our students. .

All teachers who participated in the workshop had to take a pre/post – test to assess their knowledge, behavior, and attitudes about the Chesapeake Bay and the Green School Application Process before and after the workshop.

On most questions, the answers correct increased by at least 15%-50% on the post-test. One hundred percent of teachers could define a watershed and a green school. Teachers became more proficient in the components of the Green School Application and a Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience. Teachers' knowledge of the ecology of the Bay also increased significantly.

Our international community of students, staff members, and families will benefit greatly from this training.



Essential Elements

Issue Definition: *In what ways does our schoolyard affect the health of the Chesapeake Bay and how can we help to protect it?*

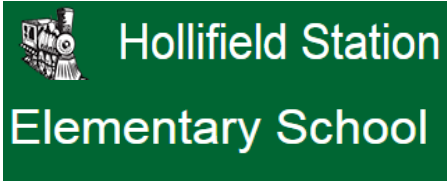
Outdoor Field Experiences: Reaching Crisfield at 5:30 pm, we climbed aboard the Loni Carrol II, a 40 ft. workboat owned by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Forty minutes later, we arrived at Port Isobel Island. We unloaded the boat and unpacked our supplies. Next, it was off to setting crab pots! It was a beautiful evening as we sped past waterman shanties and Tangier Island. The teachers were introduced to menhaden and how to bait crab pots. What an experience! The next day was spent learning about the importance of why we need students to learn outside and meaningful watershed projects.

Synthesis & Conclusions:

Throughout all of the presentations, teachers were making connections and talking about sustainable practices in place and proposing new ones! Jennifer, our HCPSS Science Resource Teacher, then explained what constitutes a U.S Government Green Ribbon School. Learning about the culture of the waterman and inhabitants of the island, increased the teachers' awareness on why we need to preserve and protect the Bay! Meeting the Mayor of Tangier Island was one highlight! Did these teachers truly experience the Bay? Do they now have an emotional connection to it? You bet!

CBT Funds Awarded:	\$2,000
Parents:	\$200
PTA:	\$435
Total:	\$2,635

Project Partners:



**CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION**

Saving a National Treasure



19 Hollifield Station teachers participated in professional development at the Port Isobel Center.