



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
333 MARKET STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17126-0333
www.pde.state.pa.us
July 5, 2006

Mr. Steven G. Tilney, President, Board of Trustees
Green Woods Charter School
8480 Hagy's Mill Road
Philadelphia, PA 19128

Dear Mr. Tilney:

On behalf of the Department of Education, The Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Council for Environmental Education, we would like to congratulate you for being selected as one of the Pennsylvania Environment and Ecology Exemplary School District Programs for 2006.

This year the Department of Education's Office of Environment and Ecology has selected four school districts and one charter school whose environment and ecology program shows a true commitment to standards-based education and to helping each one of its students to become environmentally literate citizens. We are also recognizing two school districts for their staff's hard work and dedication over the past year in aligning their curriculum to the environment and ecology standards and in starting the process of new lesson plans and units of study.

Our districts/school being honored as an exemplary standards-based program for Environment and Ecology are:

- Green Woods Charter School
- State College Area School District
- Northeast Bradford School District
- West Shore School District
- Western Beaver County School District

And our districts being honored for their exemplary alignment work are:

- Moon Area School District
- Upper Perkiomen School District

All of these programs exemplify the strengths and qualities necessary to educate young people to move into a complex and ever changing world. Your school's program will be an example of what true excellence means to a child's educational experiences. Your school has made every attempt to align its curriculum with the environment and ecology standards and to create an inquiry-based atmosphere for learning. Your students are fortunate to be in a school with such high standards of excellence. Your teachers' hard work in realigning the curriculum to the environment and ecology and science standards has proven to be a worthwhile initiative. Through

your grant with the Department of Environmental Protection, my work with your district, Jean Wallace's dedication to seeing the project through and your leadership to move it to completion truly makes Green Woods exemplary.

We will be honoring all of the Exemplars at a luncheon at the Governor's Institute for Environment and Ecology. The date is Thursday, July 27, 2006 at Seven Springs Conference Center, Champion, PA (near Somerset). The luncheon will begin at 12:00 PM in the Convention Room with the awards ceremony to follow. We should have approximately 130 teachers, state agencies and organizations attending this year's Institute and participating in your celebration.

As an exemplary school, you will receive a \$2,000 check, a plaque and a beautiful Laura Mark-Finberg wildlife print. The money should be used to enhance your environment and ecology program for your students. We will do a statewide press release but please feel free to contact your local media.

Please select representatives from your school to participate in the day's events. We will pay for mileage and en-route meals (meal and toll receipts needed). If you need to stay overnight on Wednesday, we will make those arrangements with Seven Springs.

We would like to put together a display highlighting our winners. If there are any curriculum materials, field trip experiences, pictures, etc. of your program you could share with us we would appreciate it. If you could get us these things by July 18, we would have time to do the displays. If necessary, the materials can certainly be returned to you after the luncheon.

On the attached form please indicate if your school can join us on July 27th and who will be your representatives. We would like to make all of the arrangements as soon as possible, so please return the form by July 18th. If you have any questions, please call me at 717-783-6994 or my secretary Cheryl Watts at 717-772-0842.

If you are unable to attend the luncheon, I would like to offer my attending one of your board meetings so I can present your award at that time. Please indicate on the attached form if you would like me to contact you about this. If you attend the luncheon and would also like to have me attend a board meeting, I can try to arrange this as well.

Again, congratulations and thank you for your school's excellent work.

Sincerely,

Patricia Vathis
Environment and Ecology Advisor 2
Office of Environment and Ecology
Bureau of Teaching and Learning

Dean Steinhart, Chairperson
Pennsylvania Governor's
Council for Environmental
Education

Attachment

cc: Jean Wallace, Curriculum Supervisor