



November 2021

November SBE Update

- Hosting US Department of Education
- Green Strides Tour: October 19-21
 - Attendees:
 - Cindy Marten, Deputy Secretary of Education
 - Andrea Falken, Director, USED Green Ribbon Schools Program
 - Staci Monreal, Senior Advisor, Office of the Deputy Secretary
 - Dr. Rob Taylor, Deputy Sup't: Student and School Advancement
 - Dr. Lynn Harvey, Director of District Operations and School Nutrition
 - Jon Long, Architect of School Planning
 - Nathan Maune, Section Chief of School Planning
- What Green Ribbon Schools Do:
 - 1) reduce environmental impact and costs
 - 2) improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff;
 - 3) provide effective environmental and sustainability education
- NC's History with the Green Ribbon Program
 - The 2021 cohort included the following 4 new honorees:
 - 1) Wrightsville Beach Elementary School – School Award
 - 2) DC Virgo Preparatory School – School Award
 - 3) Wake County Public School System – District Award
 - 4) UNC Wilmington – Post Secondary Award
- Goals of the Tour
- Themes Throughout NC's Districts
- Wake County Spotlight
- Hoke/Cumberland Spotlight
- New Hanover Spotlight
- Operation Polaris Alignment – renewed focus on Student Support Services
 - School nutrition needs – farm to table efforts, community gardens, student involvement in planting and harvesting
 - Socio-emotional needs – action-based learning, outdoor classrooms
 - School facilities – building design, energy efficient lighting, solar panels
- #NowWhat



OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Superintendent Catherine Truitt State Board of Education Report

November 4, 2021

Hosting US Department of Education



- The Green Strides Tour
- 3-day visit (Oct. 19-21) spanning 9 schools and 4 counties
- Attendees:
 - Cindy Marten, Deputy Secretary of Education
 - Andrea Falken, Director, USED Green Ribbon Schools Program
 - Staci Monreal, Senior Advisor, Office of the Deputy Secretary
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What are Green Ribbon Schools?

- The award recognizes schools, districts, and IHEs based on three pillars:
 - 1) reduce environmental impact and costs*
 - 2) improve the health and wellness of schools, students, and staff;*
 - 3) provide effective environmental and sustainability education*
- Combined progress across all pillars serves as the basis for this recognition.

NC's History with Green Ribbon

- Since the program's first awards were given in 2012, North Carolina Honorees have included:
 - (15) schools, (3) districts, and (2) post-secondary institutions (universities).
- The **2021 cohort** included the following 4 new honorees:
 - Wrightsville Beach Elementary School – School Award
 - DC Virgo Preparatory School – School Award
 - Wake County Public School System – District Award
 - UNC Wilmington – Post Secondary Award

Goals of the Tour:

- Visit past and present NC recipients of the Green Ribbon Schools award to better understand trends over time
 - What's worked, what's been adopted, what's been replicated
- Distinction throughout NC visits
 - These tours were mostly student led, allowing federal officials to directly engage with “green” and “science” ambassadors.
- Meet key community partners
 - Those who have stepped up to invest time and resources into furthering schoolwide goals.

Green Strides Tour

What we saw across North Carolina's schools

Themes Throughout NC's Districts:

- **Reduction** in energy usage, water consumption and waste minimization
- Promoting **healthy lifestyles** among our students through healthy eating and physical activities
- Creative strategies to **capture solar energy**, including building orientation's role in this process
- Creation of **outdoor classrooms** and open-air learning opportunities through **gardens** and **greenhouses**
- Emphasis on **STEM education**, sustainability, and **applied learning**

Tuesday in Wake County

- Abbotts Creek Elementary School (2019)
 - Principal Paula Trantham
 - Used the story of the Monarch butterfly to teach students interdisciplinary lessons
 - Cafeteria stop – food-waste compost program used in gardens
 - Learning Garden and Green STEM classroom
- Athens Drive High School (2021 WCPSS)
 - Principal Stephen Mares
 - Sustainable gardens & outdoor classroom
 - Animal science learning lab with goats & chickens
- Exploris Middle School (2014)
 - Director Deborah Brown
 - Walnut Creek & environmental projects
 - Vertical food garden & community partnerships

Photos in Wake County



Wednesday in Hoke/Cumberland Counties

- Sandy Grove Middle School (2016)
 - Principal Tommy Jacob
 - LEED gold school
 - Interactive energy dashboard where energy use and savings are tracked daily
 - Drone use to inspect solar panels
- Douglas Byrd High School (2019)
 - Principal Dr. Zoletta Taylor
 - Academy of Green Technology to conduct environmental education in the community through outreach
 - Ability to graduate with stackable credentials
- Walker-Spivey Elementary School (2020)
 - Principal Rachael Robinson
 - Outdoor garden and Greenhouse - seeing science in action by planting kale and harvesting potatoes

Photos in Hoke/Cumberland



Thursday in New Hanover County

- Wrightsville Beach Elementary School (2021)
 - Principal Jackson Norveil
 - Marine science via the dock extending into the sound
 - Outdoor learning: grade level garden area
- DC Virgo Preparatory Academy (2021)
 - Principal Sabrina Hill-Black
 - Action-based learning room
 - Mycology lesson & school gardens
- UNCW College of Education (2021)
 - Chancellor Dr. Jose V. Sartarelli received the award
 - STEM & applied health sciences lab
 - Environmental & sustainability practices

Photos in New Hanover



Operation Polaris

Operation Polaris Alignment

- Overlap with Student Support Services
 - Dr. Rob Taylor and Dr. Lynn Harvey
- Green Strides Tour allowed for a renewed focus on:
 - School nutrition needs – farm to table efforts, community gardens, student involvement in planting and harvesting
 - Socio-emotional needs – action-based learning, outdoor classrooms
 - School facilities – building design, energy efficient lighting, solar panels
- Broader conversations:
 - how are we supporting students' learning both inside and outside the classroom;
 - how are we uplifting their academic and nonacademic needs;
 - how are we innovating our building and classrooms to be efficient stewards of our environment

#NowWhat

- Now that the team has visited Green Schools, what are our next steps?
 - Sharing best practices used across districts and schools regarding student health and wellness
 - Identifying sustainable practices that could be replicated/scaled (gardens and outdoor classrooms)
 - Implementing programs where certificate/license opportunities are more widely available (drone certification)
 - Encouraging more schools and districts [to apply](#) to become a recipient of the Green Ribbon Award