



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION POLICY

SECTION 1. BEN FRANKLIN ACADEMY

MISSION

The mission of Ben Franklin Academy is to develop young adults with character like America's founding Renaissance man, Benjamin Franklin: well-read, scientifically curious, and civically engaged.

VISION

Our students will excel academically through a challenging, sequenced curriculum that emphasizes math, science, and literacy. We will be a data driven institution, focusing on individual students. Our students, teachers, parents, staff, and leaders will be held accountable for the success of our school. Finally, we recognize that an education is incomplete without fostering the arts, sports, nature, and character.

PURPOSE

Ben Franklin Academy's (BFA) Environmental Education Policy is designed to support BFA in developing and enhancing environmental education programs that equip our students with the understanding and skills required for active and informed participation in managing the environment. Most importantly, the policy aims to produce students who understand the importance of caring for the environment and minimizing society's impact on the environment, in order to secure a better quality of life for present and future generations.

SECTION 2. GENERAL GUIDELINES

BFA recognizes that:

- Environmental education is the responsibility of the whole school community. It is more than a curriculum issue and involves managing resources and grounds in a way that causes no significant damage to the environment and considers the needs of future generations.
- Environmental education is a lifelong multi-disciplinary approach to learning that helps people to understand and appreciate the environment and their connection to and impact on it.
- Environmental education is a process which develops awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the environment, positive and balanced attitudes towards the environment, and skills which will enable students to participate in assessing the state of the environment.

- Environmental education prepares us for an ecologically sustainable future. It empowers individuals to maintain and restore the Earth's natural systems and fosters support for the well-being of future generations by promoting sustainable lifestyles. This requires understanding of the need to achieve a balance between the environmental, social, and economic impacts of development.
- Environmental education involves respecting and valuing the achievements of the past and supporting the preservation of those aspects of the built environment which remind us of those achievements.

SECTION 3. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Through its Environmental Education Policy, BFA supports: (1) integrating environment-based education activities in BFA's curriculum; (2) being environmentally responsible in managing BFA's resources; and (3) being environmentally responsible in managing BFA's school grounds.

POLICY HISTORY:

Original: Approved by the Board 10/11/2011
Revision 1: Approved by the Board 10/8/2013
Reviewed by the Board on 10/21/2014
Reviewed by the Board on 10/20/2015
Reviewed by the Board on 10/18/2016