FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2020 Alabama Green Ribbon Schools Awardee Announced
Award Honors Schools, Districts, and Postsecondary Institutions for Reducing Environmental Impact and Costs, Improving Health and Wellness, Offering Effective Sustainability Education


This award recognizes innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and promote environmental and sustainability education. As Alabama Green Ribbon Schools, Magnolia Nature School at Camp McDowell and Morris Avenue Intermediate will be nominated to be recognized as U.S. Department of Education ED Green Ribbon Schools Awardees, to be announced this spring.

“We are so proud to have schools that are recognized for not only being beacons of quality education, but that are serving as leaders in innovation – especially in the important role of reducing our carbon footprint. We must be good stewards of the world around us and all of its resources. The effort put into developing efficient use of electricity, maximizing recyclable materials, and honing solar energy is truly admirable,” Mackey said. “Most importantly, I fully appreciate the teaching and learning about nutrition and environmental issues that will have long-lasting impact for years and years to come. Being environmentally responsible, and responsible for our own well-being, is essential to having a future that is not only sustainable, but continually prosperous. Congratulations to these Alabama Green Ribbon schools!”

Magnolia Nature School at Camp McDowell’s application to become an Alabama Green Ribbon School showcased many impressive efforts in the three aforementioned areas, such as the use of geothermal systems, solar arrays and the installation of a hydro system called an Archimedes screw on an existing dam which, combined, reduce energy consumption and allow less dependence on carbon burning systems for electricity.

In 2015, Camp McDowell received a $30,000 grant from the United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church to construct a recycling center on campus. Magnolia Nature School also received the Best Environmental Education Program (BEEP) award from the Environmental Education Association of Alabama (EEAA) in 2019.

Morris Avenue Intermediate’s application to become an Alabama Green Ribbon School also showcased many impressive efforts in the three pillars, including the development of a fruit and fitness trail which provides students with a connection between physical activity and nutrition, a student-led recycling program, an Ambassador garden, and grade-specific environmental education units which promote the use of environment and sustainability to develop STEM content knowledge and thinking skills.

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Morris Avenue Intermediate has developed key partnerships with organizations such as Keep Opelika Beautiful, Opelika Grows, Opelika Master Gardeners, Opelika Environmental Services, Pratt Industries, Opelika Bicycle Advisory Committee, Auburn University, Southern Union Community College, Creekline Trails, and the city of Opelika to provide students with opportunities to develop and apply civic knowledge and skills in environmental education, health, and wellness.

Magnolia Nature School at Camp McDowell and Morris Avenue Intermediate will be recognized at the Alabama State Board of Education meeting in May, and celebrated with a picnic hosted by the Alabama Green Ribbon Schools Committee.

For more information on Alabama’s Green Ribbon Schools, visit https://www.alsde.edu/greenribbonschools.

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