

Communications Office

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Harford County Public Schools and Harford County Forestry Board Partnership Grows with Donation of 54 Saplings

This April, nearly every Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) campus will be a little greener, thanks to the generosity of the Harford County Forestry Board.

The Forestry Board, which has partnered with HCPS for 46 years, is providing 54 saplings to HCPS schools this spring. Nearly every HCPS school will receive a new sapling, while Patterson Mill Middle/High School and Havre de Grace Middle/High School will receive two. Schools will plant the trees throughout April and May in recognition of Arbor Day.

In addition to the saplings, the Forestry Board will also provide seedlings to every school, a tradition that has been the cornerstone of the partnership for the past 46 years. This year's seedling donation includes six native species: Bald Cypress, Black Cherry, Eastern Red Cedar, Flowering Dogwood, Hazelnut, and Southern Red Oak. The combined value of this year's donation, including saplings, seedlings, mulch and supplies, exceeds \$3,800.

"We are incredibly grateful for the long-standing commitment the Harford County Forestry Board has shown to our students and schools," said Dr. Dyann Mack, Interim Superintendent of Harford County Public Schools. "This partnership reflects a shared belief that connecting young people to the natural world around them is a meaningful part of their education."

"The Harford County Forestry Board has grown its partnership with Harford County Public Schools for more than 40 years," said Geoff Graff of the Harford County Forestry Board. "What started as the seed of basic environmental support, has grown and includes deep roots of a strong partnership. By nurturing Harford County students through many different programs, we are working toward our goal of connecting young people to the natural world. This four-decade-long partnership with Harford County Public Schools has been our largest activity and is a great source of satisfaction and joy for our members."

The Forestry Board's support of HCPS extends well beyond Arbor Day. Each year, Forestry Board members participate in the county's Envirothon competition, coordinating and scoring the forestry section of the event. The Forestry Board also interviews county students applying for the Maryland Forestry Foundation's Natural Resources Career Camp and covers both the tuition and for students who present their experience at a board meeting, an activity fee.

Established by State law in 1943, Maryland's county forestry boards are staffed by volunteer members and supported by a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forester. The Harford County Forestry

Board has six official members in addition to its DNR forester and plays a formal role in reviewing logging plans within Forest Conservation areas in the county.



Students at Bel Air High School pose with their sapling from the Harford County Forestry Board.



Students at Bel Air Middle School pose with their sapling from the Harford County Forestry Board.



Students and staff at Ring Factory Elementary School pose with their sapling from the Harford County Forestry Board.

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