Environmental Service Learning

Kettle Creek Project
A Character Education Partnership (CEP) Promising Practice

Lake Riviera Middle School
Brick, New Jersey

Demonstrates Principle 3, 5, 6, 7 & 9 of CEP’s 11 Principles: Includes a meaningful connection of core values to curricula, opportunity for moral action and engaging academic activity, encourages intrinsic motivation and student leadership.

Grade Levels: 6-8

At Lake Riviera Middle School, the enthusiasm, engagement and conservation concerns of students and staff in utilizing the “environmental area” on the school grounds spurred the creation of the Kettle Creek Project. The project includes a dedicated group of 20 students who wanted to expand the already extensive environmental studies curriculum of Lake Riviera Middle School to include the study of watershed management. This unique service-learning project allows students to work with local professionals and staff to compile an inventory of indigenous vegetation and wildlife of the Kettle Creek Watershed, which has a tributary on the school campus. Their analysis of water quality and prevention of water pollution are lively topics for a variety of presentations given by the students throughout the community. Kettle Creek Project students have been asked to be the keynote speakers at the 13th annual Ocean County Environmental Roundtable and have been recognized by National Environmental Week in their online newsletter at www.eeweek.org.

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