



SERT Flash

School Energy and Recycling Team



Light Switch Signage Saves Energy!



Glenallan Elementary School
Gator Green Team Students Turning Off the Lights

Did you know that approximately one-third of school buildings electricity use comes from lighting?

Encouraging students and staff to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms helps conserve energy and resources that can be redirected to educational initiatives. One way to encourage turning off the lights is to post student-created light switch covers.

The Glenallan Elementary School SERT/Green Team saves a significant amount of electricity through encouraging energy-aware behavior by posting handmade light switch covers. These colorful covers are fun for students to make and also remind others to turn off the lights when leaving the room. Remember, turning the overhead lights off even for a few seconds saves energy.

Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) has almost 8,000 classrooms. If classroom lights are left on accidentally for two hours each academic day this could cost the school system an average of \$400,000 per year. Imagine how much we can save if we each do our part to turn off the lights when they are not needed.

Making switch plate covers is a fun and rewarding activity for the SERT/Green Team. It is something that can be done during an indoor recess or even at home. Once completed, SERT recommends laminating the switch plate signage so it can be used more than one year.

If your SERT Team would prefer to post a readymade sign or use the SERT template to make your own, please visit the SERT [link](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/greenschoolsfocus/pdf/sertswitchcover.pdf) below and get creative.

SERT would like to thank the Glenallan ES SERT Team, Principal Miss. Ronnie Fields, Mr. Ronald Fox, Ms. Gloria Ralph, Mrs. Barbara Templin, and the Gator Green Team students for sharing their creative energy saving ideas.

Do you have a "SERT Flash" you would like to share about your SERT efforts? Please submit a photograph and paragraph about your team and you too can be featured in a future FLASH!

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"It's your world...choose to conserve"