



# SERT Flash

School Energy and Recycling Team



## Julius West Middle School Students are into Green Design!

Ms. Lauren Casey, 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher, invites SERT staff to work with her students on a “Going Green” project. Students worked together on a project-based learning challenge where they were actively solving problems, making decisions, and investigating options for creating new designs and improvements for existing Montgomery County Public School facilities making them more energy-efficient (Green). Mr. Williams from the SERT office assisted in facilitating the reflections.

Students at Julius West Middle School welcomed Mr. Williams enthusiastically with signage and banners! Mr. Williams presented School Energy & Recycling Team (SERT) program information and helped lead the students through their investigation of green design. Examples of green strategies that were reviewed included the benefits of using lighter paint schemes and how that increases the reflection of light thereby reducing the need for electrical lighting – daylight harvesting.

Mr. Williams was pleased to find that many students were well on their way with regard to the green project and had a strong basis of knowledge in the area. Many students also knew about the SERT program, since most of them had come from elementary schools with successful SERT programs such as College Gardens, Beall, Ritchie Park, and Twinbrook elementary schools.

After the presentation, the sixth grade students from Julius West Middle School were very excited to apply the central concepts and principles of green building design. Mr. Williams also learned from the experience and has a great deal of respect for all teachers and educators.

On behalf of the SERT staff, thank you Ms. Casey for inviting SERT to share with your students and for your continued conservation efforts!

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!

E-mail: [SERT@mcpsmd.org](mailto:SERT@mcpsmd.org)  
SERT Program- 240-314-1090

“It’s your world...choose to conserve”



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## Martin Luther King Recycling Panthers are Taking Recycling to the Next Level.... Are you?



MLK Recycling Panthers

Beverly Thompson, paraeducator, from Martin Luther King Middle School has taken recycling to the next level. Not only do her students do a great job of collecting the school's recycling material, but Ms. Thompson has the students weigh and graph out the increased weight of recyclable materials. In-house performance measures help reinforce the proactive approach of the team. The students enhance their math skills and create bar graphs demonstrating their progress for posting in the main hall. Keeping the school informed of their efforts increases awareness and participation. This outstanding effort models successful strategies used in creating a well-rounded educational environment and promotes a culture of conservation.

Team work demonstrating initiative, leadership skills, and environmental stewardship, propels Martin Luther King Middle School's recycling team to excel. We thank everyone for staying active and involved.

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Mrs. Tracy Katoski and Mrs. Raka Goswami  
Montgomery Village Middle School Staff Members

## What do you see when you walk into MVMS?

We see how important resource conservation is to the Montgomery Village Middle School SERT team members. The Montgomery Village Middle School SERT Team has set up centralized recycling stations in the main hallway and throughout the school so that students, staff, and visitors are able to recycle paper, bottles/cans and dispose of their trash responsibly.

Thank you to Mrs. Tracy Katoski, administrative secretary, and Mrs. Raka Goswami, 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher, who are the driving force behind the creative hall displays and bulletin boards. These displays share recycling and energy conservation information and useful facts with everyone at Montgomery Village Middle School. Students, staff, and community members can learn about their very own “footprint.”

SERT would also like to thank the students from the Learning for Independence Program along with their paraeducators, Mrs. Gloria Stewart and Mrs. Kim Kastens, who help to collect the recycling at Montgomery Village Middle School.

SERT would like to thank everyone at MVMS for making a difference!

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## Francis Scott Key Middle School SERT Team In Action!



**A message from your School Energy & Recycling Team (SERT @ Francis Scott Key MS)**

**Paper Recycling**

GREAT JOB! Your bin was not contaminated!

Audit could not be conducted (room was locked or bin was empty)

▶ The following contaminants were found in your recycle bin(s):

Plastic bags, other plastic       Pencil shavings

Binders/Clothing                       Tissues and/or paper towels

Food containers, cans, candy       Food and/or gum wrappers

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of audit: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Auditor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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**Electricity**

Great job! You have powered down your electrical equipment!

Audit could not be conducted (teacher was still present in the room)

▶ Please remember to turn-off or unplug the following before leaving for the day:

Computer       Computer monitor

Promethean projector

DVD players, VCRs, audio/video equipment

Personal items (electric shaver, lamp)

Printer, scanner, computer hardware

Large appliances (laminate, copy machines)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Room Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of audit: \_\_\_\_\_

Auditors: \_\_\_\_\_

**T**he School Energy & Recycling Team (SERT) team at Francis Scott Key Middle School (FSK MS) is excited to begin the fifth year of its classroom energy conservation, recycling auditing and monitoring program. The student members of the FSK MS SERT team monitor the school's energy use and recycling by circulating throughout the building once or twice a week, checking on unoccupied rooms to make sure their classroom lights are turned off and other electrical equipment is shut down. They also check for recycling contamination, and at the same time they collect the paper, bottles and cans from the classrooms for recycling. The SERT team students record their findings on a classroom audit sheet that is mounted by each classroom's door. By doing so, the students are giving direct observed feedback to the classroom students and staff when they find resource conservation measures that are and are not in place.

The SERT program would like to thank Mrs. Yolanda Stanislaus, principal; Ms. Abby Hendrix, science resource teacher; and Mr. Yusuf Umar, building service manager for their support and promoting outstanding resource conservation among the students and staff.

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

**MCPS**  
**School Energy & Recycling Team**  
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 Francis Scott Key Middle School