

Winchester Academy



White Pines Provide Erosion Control and Privacy at School



Winchester Academy a private school located in Winchester, Virginia, that focuses on “advanced curriculum and low teacher-student ratios.” Science teacher Deb Stevens coordinated the planting of twelve white pine trees along the back drive by the play yard. This road results in high traffic due to the convenience center located down the road.



Twenty-four students grades 6-11 participated in the tree planting on May 5th. In addition to the twelve pine trees, students also planted an additional six trees purchased through the school’s existing grant with Toshiba. The mulch for the planting was donated by the local company Shenandoah Sand in Winchester.

The students, along with three additional adult volunteers, planted the trees at the school. The pines planted along the road will not only provide privacy to the play yard but will also help to control the erosion occurring from the

stormwater runoff. The pines will absorb the water, stopping it from traveling over ground, which led to the currently visible erosion. It will also help to clean the water from any harmful pollutants that have fallen on the road.

These trees will be maintained by the high school students during

the school year. Students will water the trees, ensure proper mulch placement, and observe the growth of the trees. School staff will water trees during the summer.

Students that participated in the tree planting will see their efforts in resolving the



privacy and erosion issues at the school as the trees continue to grow in the following years. The students not only made a difference for their school, but they also made a difference for the local streams and Chesapeake Bay.