

Daniel Morgan Middle School



Students Leave a Legacy by Planting Trees

Daniel Morgan Middle School participated in the Potomac Headwaters Leaders of Watersheds (PHLOW) Plant-a-Tree project. The project was led by Principal Jerry Putt along with teachers Jennifer Nichols, Christopher Bosse, Jonetta Carter, Jill Crowe, and John Scott.



The Plant-a-Tree project is composed of an education session focused on the overall importance of trees within both urban and rural environments. Then students apply their knowledge during a hands-on conservation practice of planting native trees on the school grounds. These trees provide a number of benefits to the environment and the school. Native trees decrease stormwater runoff

pollution, harmful materials carried to local streams by rain water, they also provide habitat and food for wildlife. The tree grove created on campus provides shade, an outdoor learning space, and species identification opportunities to the school.

One-hundred-thirty 7th and 8th grade students planted fifteen native trees on campus during the last days of the school year. Tree species included: black oak, American hornbeam, sugar maple, and scarlet oak. The trees are positioned in a cluster near the edge of the property. These trees will not only provide shade, but will add privacy from the neighbors, and absorb excess water that ponds in the area after a rain storm.

Students learned proper tool safety, correct planting depth, and planting procedures. For many students it was their first opportunity to plant a tree and their last impact on the school. The 8th graders will transfer to the high school in the fall, but left behind a legacy that will live on at the



school. Students will be able to return in the future and know what tree they planted.

The school contributed nearly forty volunteer hours by staff, students, and community members along with 112 educational contact hours in the classroom to the Plant-a-Tree project.

