

# Martinsburg South Middle



## 6<sup>th</sup> Graders Grow Native Trees Saplings to Improve Tree Canopy

One-hundred eighteen 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at Martinsburg South Middle School participated in the PHLOW Growing Native program complete with a tree potting project this spring. Cacapon Institute worked with lead teacher Michalla Kriss to provide both classroom education and hands on conservation with the school's

streams. Students also investigated the ability of riparian forest buffers to protect our streams.

Lessons connect to state standards with and complimented Martinsburg South Middle's program to grow American chestnut trees to restore the species across West Virginia.



6<sup>th</sup> graders in science.

Cacapon Institute led students in four one-hour classroom education lessons to engage students in discussions about watersheds, tree identification, and the role trees play in healthier

A diversity of twelve species of native tree whips were planted in pots and added to Martinsburg South's new Grow Out Station. All 111 of these saplings will grow in the fenced station for a year until they are ready to be planted on campus and throughout the student's communities at the conclusion of next school year.

The Growing Native program teaching students about the

critical importance of having trees in our communities to



reduce the amount of pollution entering our streams, provide oxygen, and create habitat for wildlife.