



# WEST HARDIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

10471 Leitchfield Road  
Cecilia, Kentucky 42724

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The 2007-2008 school year is the first year West Hardin Middle School has pledged to be a Kentucky Green and Healthy School (KGHS). This is a statewide program sponsored by the Environmental Education Council of Kentucky. This project will encompass planting native wildflowers and native tree species in an open area on the school grounds. The area designated for the planting will first be prepared by our students by taking soil samples which will be sent to a laboratory for testing. Once the soil sample testing is complete, we will have an individual from the Forestry Department visit our class to discuss the findings and recommend native trees that would thrive in our particular soil environment based on the results. In addition, we will have horticulturalist help in the landscape design so that the area will be aesthetically pleasing to the public. Using the drill borrowed from the Kentucky Fish and wildlife Department, we will then plant a custom blend of native wildflowers on "islands" surrounded by borders of grass that will still require mowing but give the area a more manicured look.

I feel that it is priceless knowledge for the students to learn the importance of being good stewards of our environment. These students are our future and if we can instill proper conservation and environmental consciousness into these children, they will carry that with them throughout their lives. Not only will these native plant species be brought back to Stephensburg, but I also anticipate some native wildlife will also be attracted to the newly developed area. In monetary terms, the Hardin Co. Board of Education should spend less money in the long run for fuel and labor in terms of mowing the area. In addition, reducing the acreage that is required to be mowed means less exhaust will be released into our atmosphere. West Hardin is located within an area that Hardin Co. Water District #2 has identified as a springhead protection area. The spring in this area is the sole source of water for Hardin Co. Water District #2 which provides drinking water to over 47,000 people in Hardin, Larue and Hart counties with an additional 25% of the water to 29,000 people in the City of Elizabethtown. Our hopes are that children will foster a newfound respect towards the environment and be able to see its importance in our whole community.

The project will begin after the statewide testing, when temperatures are warmer for planting vegetation. We will begin in February with the planning stage of the project so that when the weather is warm in May, we will be able to actually plant the various species.

The project will be located on one side of West Hardin Middle School from the Hwy 62 to the baseball field, and from the teachers' parking lot to Learning Place Lane which is visible from both schools (Lakewood Elementary and West Hardin Middle) and Highway 62.

The KY PRIDE grant has been applied for requesting \$3,000. We will have to pay up front for all items purchased and then will be reimbursed. I have also acquired almost \$1,650 in matching funds with donations and labor. Notification of the grant awards will be given by March 17th.

Leslie Meredith *Leslie Meredith*

There will be no current or future cost to the Board for this project.

Jim Roe

Approved: *Jim Roe*