

Glencoe School District 35
OFFICE of CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, ASSESSMENT

Environmental Education

**Curricular themes,
recurring problem solving issues,
WE CARE augmentation,
activities and clubs**



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN GLENCOE SCHOOL DISTRICT 35

Kindergarten

Life Science strand: "Exploring Diverse Living Things"
Earth Science strand: "Weather and Seasons"
Fall nature walk and planting session with Glencoe Park District
Caring for wildflower sanctuary and bird feeders

First Grade

Life Science strand: "Habitats" (includes new gardening unit)
Social Studies Geography strand topics: *How environmental changes impact people; taking care of earth*
Recycling Club (PTO sponsored)
Wildflower sanctuary clean up

Second Grade

Life Science strand: "Comparative Life Cycles"
Social Studies Geography strand topics: *Exploring activities that one can take part in within the community as a result of the natural environment; exploring the physical environmental changes in our community*
Social Studies Impacts: *What problems exist in my community? What are some alternative solutions to these problems? What are the consequences of certain solutions? How do the solutions impact my community?*
Earth Science strand: "Air and Weather"
Recycling Club (PTO sponsored)
Wildflower sanctuary clean up

Third Grade

Life Science strand: "Introduction to Ecosystems"
Social Studies Economic Systems strand topics: *Human and natural resources in Illinois*
Social Studies Geography strand topics: *Seasonal changes in the Illinois prairie; impacts of technology on the prairie; Chicago growth affects on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan; Chicago River and Lake Michigan resources*
Social Studies Impacts: *What problems exist in different communities? What are some alternative solutions to these problems? What are the consequences of certain solutions? How do the solutions impact communities?*
West Goes Green Club (PTO sponsored)
Mighty Acorns (PTO sponsored)
Recycling Club (PTO sponsored)

Fourth Grade

Life Science strand: "Diverse Ecosystems"

Social Studies Geography strand topics: *Weather and climate affects on physical features of the environment in the regions of the United States; bodies of water and physical features that foster growth and development in the United States; unique ecosystems in various regions; adaptations of living things to the physical environment within their region*

Social Studies Impacts: *What problems exist in each region? What are some alternative solutions to these problems? How do the solutions impact the region? Identify problems and discuss alternative solutions and their consequences.*

West Goes Green Club (PTO sponsored)

Recycling Club (PTO sponsored)

Fifth Grade

Social Studies Geography strand topics: *The relationship of patterns of settlement to physical features and climate, and the changes over time; study how physical features can be both barriers and avenues to settlement, and how changes could affect movement of people*

Social Studies Impacts: *What problems are associated with movement? What are some alternative solutions to these problems? What are the consequences of certain solutions? What is the impact of the solutions? Identify problems and discuss alternative solutions and their consequences.*

Going Green Club (PTO sponsored)

Sixth Grade

Life Science strand: "Oceanography and Biomes"

Earth Science strand: "Climactic Change; Catastrophic Events"

Social Studies Impacts: *Compare ancient and modern civilizations' problems. How have decisions made by ancient peoples affected the world today? Identify environmental issues that illustrate positive and negative consequences of certain solutions over time. What are the alternatives to these today? How might our solutions today affect future world civilizations?*

Going Green Club (PTO sponsored)

The Wilderness Classroom (PTO sponsored)

Seventh Grade

Earth Science strand: "Dynamic Changing Earth"

Social Studies Geographical theme: *The relationship between human actions and their environment.*

Going Green Club (PTO sponsored)

Eighth Grade

Earth Science strand: "Weathering and Erosion"

Social Studies Geographical theme: *The relationship between human actions and their environment*

Going Green Club (PTO sponsored)

District

"Going Green" Committee

Definition of Committee: The committee keeps green citizenship alive in the minds of staff, students, and community members by meeting periodically to share school activities and plan family events.

Purpose of Committee:

Goals – Share school projects, activities, and programs; expand each school's foundation for "green" citizenship; keep the message alive in each school among parents, students, and staff; build continuity between and among schools for successful programming; include outside community organizations that wish to be jointly involved.

Steps – Two formal meetings are set to share activities, make suggestions and address identified concerns. The committee may decide to sponsor a district activity.

Role of Committee Members: Members are encouraged to share openly activities at his/her building, present ideas for future programming, and disseminate information. Ideally, representatives from each school will attend meetings. (Members from the current year have already formulated a list of possible district activities that will be considered next year.)

WE CARE monthly theme augmentation to include environmental issues:

Environmental Themes highlighted in green.

SEPTEMBER: Building a Respectful Community – Teamwork

Organizational skills, school culture, introduction to WE CARE concepts and themes, setting goals for the year, doing your share, self-motivation, follow-through skill building, earning trust and respect, sportsmanship, good citizenship, **lending a hand to save our land**

OCTOBER: Making Healthy Choices

Health issues, peer pressure, stress management, refusal skills, alcohol/tobacco, Red Ribbon Themes, **our health and earthly consequences**

NOVEMBER: Helping Others

Volunteerism, Chicago school adoptions, sharing, loyalty, service to others, offering assistance, good citizenship, becoming a trusted member of a group, making a difference through service learning projects and activities, **good global citizenship and assisting others in efforts to care for earth**

DECEMBER: I Like Me! – Self-confidence

Self-confidence, self-esteem, mental and emotional health, assertive vs. aggressive, exploring one's own unique talents and affinities, becoming involved, taking care of oneself, balancing life, meaningful contributions, self worth, pride in one's background, skills, and abilities, honoring one's own uniqueness, acceptance, **feeling pride for taking care of resources and our earth**

JANUARY: Courage

Teasing and bullying issues, standing up for what one believes, facing difficult situations, protecting rights of others, problem-solving, **world environmental challenges that need courageous peoples' solutions**

FEBRUARY: Cultural Awareness

Diversity, tolerance, understanding cultural differences, learning to ask respectful questions, honoring differences in gender, nationality, creed, physical features, religion, abilities and disabilities, learning "how to talk to just about anybody about just about anything," **cultural affects on the environment and how changes in cultural behaviors may help protect earth**

MARCH: Responsible Behavior

Rights and responsibilities, admitting and learning from mistakes, revisiting goals, allowing for others to learn from their mistakes, **responsible world citizenship in relation to people and place**

APRIL: Honesty

Trust, accepting imperfections, respectfully disagreeing, speaking the truth, acknowledging a problem or mistake and working out possible remedies, **being honest about the world's environmental issues and what can be done about them**

MAY: Accomplishments

Compare earlier goals with accomplishments and success, set new goals for next year, plan for the future, celebrate a year of growth, learning, and development, acknowledge friendships and relationship building, **identify international, national, state, local and school success in dealing with global warming and other important environmental issues**