

King Middle School



Home of the Crusaders

Manatee County School District

Dr. Tim McGonegal
Superintendent

King Middle School
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Robin Hardy
Principal

Jayne Powell
Senior Secretary

Yvette Benton
Assistant Principal

Brad Scarbrough
Assistant Principal

Sue Ten Broeck
Guidance Counselor

Karyn Baker
Guidance Counselor

Christine Keusch
Guidance Counselor

King Middle School Mission Statement

The mission of King Middle School is to prepare the King community for the challenge and demands of the 21st Century by facilitating the acquisition of the knowledge, skills and experiences necessary to reach individual potential.



*Inspiring Our Students to
Learn, Dream and Achieve*

May 1, 2012

To Whom It Concerns:

Students at Martha B. King Middle School have begun what we hope is lifelong learning in environmental education. The school's Environmental Club is one of our most active service clubs. The club has been active in several environmental projects in the two-county area over the past year. These activities have included attendance at events such as Estuary Day and at a Youth Summit at Mote Marine Laboratory. Students have planted native plants at a preserve and have removed invasive plants in at least two locations. The club has also raised money for our county's Keep Manatee Beautiful program. Additionally, at the school level, the club works with recycling efforts.

For its many efforts in our local communities, King Middle School and its Environmental Club were recently honored. The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program awarded the school with its Blue Dolphin Award for the students' work with the Bay Guardians volunteer program.

In short, the club has embraced the concept of service learning. Along with the club's sponsors and members of the school's science staff, we think we have just scratched the surface. Students and teachers are excited to continue and expand upon the achievements of the Environmental Club. Indeed, a mission of the school and school district is to actively engage in global outreach. We feel our students have demonstrated this mission and will continue to do so with growing opportunities.

King Middle School is located in a unique environment. One of the bays our students have worked to protect, Palma Sola Bay, is contiguous to the King campus. This area includes pine flatwoods and mangrove swamps, as well as a stream splitting the wetlands area and emptying into Palma Sola Bay which fronts the school's property. Indeed, we feel such a piece of property is unique in our county and rare in the state of Florida. Our students and staff are excited to both learn and protect this valuable asset. Along with them, I am excited about not only our students being able to access this undeveloped property, but about students being able to learn and embrace environmental concerns right in our own backyard. Furthermore, we have two elementary schools in the neighborhood that could also be provided service learning opportunities. Other schools within our school district would also be able to use this area for learning about their native environment.

I hope the Youth Advisory Board considers funding Martha B. King Middle School's request to increase its service learning opportunities for Manatee County students. By becoming active in their own education, I am convinced our students will become lifetime stewards of their environment. They will increase their own learning while at the same time develop leadership skills and learn civic responsibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin K. Hardy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "H".

Robin K. Hardy, Principal
Martha B. King Middle School

LOUISE R. JOHNSON MIDDLE SCHOOL



LOUISE R. JOHNSON MIDDLE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Principal: Omar Edwards

Assistant: Lorie Starkweather

Principals: Wende Wicks

May 4, 2012

Soaring Worldwide

To Whom It Concerns:

Students at Louise R. Johnson Middle School of International Studies begin the lifelong journey towards living in an environmentally ethical way the minute 6th grade commences each August. Teachers infuse environmental awareness throughout the curriculum in all three grades. By the time they move on from eighth grade and on into high school, students are aware of how each person affects the environment, what each can do in order to make a difference, and how to communicate that knowledge to audiences both narrow and broad.

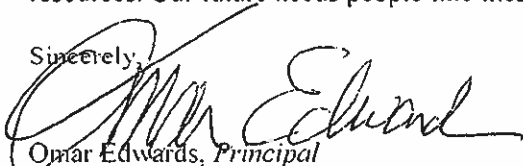
In order to facilitate assimilation of this way of viewing our surroundings, students are offered after school community service clubs and also, once per month, what we call "Saturday Science". Saturday Science has grown over its five years of existence to become an eagerly anticipated and highly enjoyed event. More often than not, students visit a local nature preserve and perform plantings, extract invasive plants, clean up waterways and other outreach. This school has established strong relationships with most of the nature preserves found in Manatee County and they always oblige our requests to take our students there through this program. We began a new one with Sarasota Bay Estuary Program last year through Around the Bend Nature Tours. We look forward to continued collaboration as we help to fulfill one another's goals of service and outreach to those around us and simultaneously raise awareness of environmental issues.

Our school requires service learning in ways such as these, and we gladly meet this requirement. But, we can do more and want to do more. Instead of taking 40 students once per month, why can't we take 80 students twice per month? Students and teachers want to expand our environmental awareness and community service involvements as soon as we can. A mission of the school and school district is to actively engage in global outreach. With more chances to do this, we will, of course, succeed in pursuit of this goal.

Louise R. Johnson Middle School has easy access to a flood of unique water habitats including estuaries, mangrove swamps, pine flat woods, bays, wetlands, lakes, and rivers. All of these habitats are reachable by bus in 30 minutes. For our students, service learning with environmental awareness sometimes really does make their backyard look better! There is no shortage of opportunities for us to serve and barriers such as distance and time commitment do not exist in any meaningful way for us.

I hope that you will consider funding Louise R. Johnson Middle School's request to increase its service learning opportunities for Manatee County students. Our students have a built in and underdeveloped desire to serve their communities and environment. Currently, that desire is barely sated. A generation of leaders, both civic and environmental, is waiting to grow and can with more opportunities that can only come from currently inaccessible resources. Our future needs people like these students have the potential to become!

Sincerely,



Omar Edwards, Principal

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