**U.S. Secretary of Education Names Montessori Children’s House (MCH) 2020 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School**

The U.S. Department of Education announced today that Montessori Children’s House (MCH) in Redmond, WA is among the 2020 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award honorees.

MCH was nominated by the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools within the Nominating Authority’s jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.

“This is a huge honor,” says MCH’s Head of School, Jennifer McConnell. “We certainly don’t take this award and title lightly. This has been a years-long effort, with input from our garden specialist, maintenance team, administration and our enthusiastic Green Team.”

“This is absolutely a student-led effort,” said MCH Gardening Specialist and Green Team lead, Katherine Stewart. “Caring for the earth is a part of who we are as a community and this award is a very visual representation of our students’ efforts.”

Across the country, 39 schools, 11 districts, and five postsecondary institutions are being honored for their innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education.

The honorees were named from a pool of candidates nominated by 27 states. The selectees include 28 public schools, including three magnet schools and four charter schools, as well as 11 nonpublic schools. Forty-five percent of the 2020 honorees serve a disadvantaged student body.

The list of all selected schools, districts, colleges, and universities, can be found [here](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/awards.html). A report with highlights on the 55 honorees can be found [here](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/green-ribbon-schools/performance.html). More information on the federal recognition award can be found [here](http://www.ed.gov/green-ribbon-schools). Resources for all schools to move toward the three Pillars can be found [here](http://www.greenstrides.org).

**A Note on the Award Name for Communications**

ED's award is called "U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools" and has "District Sustainability Award" and "Postsecondary Sustainability Award" categories, in addition to the original school award. It is abbreviated ED-GRS. "Green Ribbon Schools" without the "U.S. Department of Education" is not ED's award, but instead is a separate program overseen by another organization. A selected school is a "2020 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School." A selected district is a "2020 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School District Sustainability Awardee." A selected postsecondary institution is a “2020 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School Postsecondary Sustainability Awardee. There is no "National," “Award,” or "Program" in the title. There is no apostrophe or hyphen after Education.