

## NEWS RELEASE

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Mariemont City Schools

### **Award-winning Rain Garden Helps Mariemont High School Flourish**



Last year Mariemont High School boasted a winning group of student rain gardeners who earned top prizes totaling \$40,000 in the Lexus Eco Challenge. A portion of those winnings is appropriately enough being recycled back into the classroom where their challenge first began.

Under the guidance of MHS biology teacher, Mary Halsall, the science department now has a thriving greenhouse.

Shelving systems, lighting, planters and tanks are all part of this improved instructional area to observe plant and animal life growth and development. Halsall is excited about the opportunities for learning. "Students will be using the greenhouse to do many of our growth experiments where we are looking at photosynthesis. We want to grow plants from seed, and do some plant genetics."

All students who make their way through the science hallway will benefit from viewing a variety of flora and fauna -- as well as tanks filled with reptiles and amphibians -- as they flourish in their newly remodeled home.

"It's great to watch our fish and frogs' behavior and development. I feel it just gives the whole hall a more biological/scientific feel, and gets students interested in what these animals are like."

*Photo: Senior members of the award-winning Mariemont High School rain garden team, McKenzie Miller and Libby Peters are proud their prize supported a new greenhouse for the science department.*