

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GreenRibbonSchools

The logo for Green Ribbon Schools features a stylized green ribbon that forms a V-shape, with three parallel lines on each side, creating a sense of movement and depth.

When School of Education Alumni **Misty Rose Smith, MA'07, BA'99**, attended the **2019 Integrity of Creation Conference: Toward a Healthy Planet**, her goal was to capture innovative ideas from the conference and take the ideas back to her Healthy Schools Committee at Hance Elementary. She knew Duquesne would provide a venue that wouldn't disappoint. She attended every session and took many notes. With inspiration she returned to Hance Elementary and shared her ideas with Principal Dr. Greta Kuzilla and her committee. "I am so lucky to work with a principal that supported my attending the conference and so enthusiastically ran with ideas to improve our school and integrate green initiatives," Misty commented. Little did she realize what planting a seed would grow.

Hance Elementary in the Pine Richland School District was nominated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as a 2021 Green Ribbon School. A report was submitted to discuss the various areas of focus in regard to green initiatives at Hance. A few highlights of the report related to sustainability and environmental initiatives including extensive celebrations surrounding Earth Day. Hance Elementary celebrates Earth Day with a variety of activities including a waste-free lunch day as well as virtual field trips to help students learn about various environments and the animals that live there. Additional activities include a rainbow scavenger hunt and the creation of a giant earth day mural around the outdoor track to promote positive messages of how to help create sustainability at school. This year, they will host a recycling fashion show to culminate their Earth Day festivities. Students are creating clothes, jewelry, and accessories from items that typically would be recycled. Dr. Kuzilla is currently working with an Eagle Scout to construct a greenhouse at Hance.

The U.S. Department of Education announced last week that Hance Elementary School is among the 2021 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award honorees. Hance is one of only three schools in Pennsylvania to become a 2021 award honoree. Congratulations to third grade teacher and alumni Misty Rose Smith and Hance Elementary for becoming a Green Ribbon School and for inspiring another generation ***Toward a Healthy Planet.***