



## 2019 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School Missouri Honoree Highcroft Ridge Elementary



An EcoBuds group meets to plan their environmental project.

**Highcroft Ridge Elementary** is a public school in the Parkway District. Over 30% of students are FRPL, have limited English proficiency, and/or have learning disabilities.

In 2017-2018, the Highcroft Ridge Elementary Family Groups voted to have "the environment" as their topic and theme for the year. The first year was all about "eco-cation", including brainstorming ideas for projects for an April 2017 half day Environmental Day. The second year students were focused on understanding, calculating and reducing the school's carbon footprint.

- **Sustainability** - Highcroft Ridge has reduced its energy use by 17.4% per student since 2015. It has reduced its non-transportation GHGs by 18% per student since 2015. A combination of utility rebates, a Missouri Department of Economic Development loan, and other measures allowed the school to convert



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to LED lighting, renovate the building to ASHRAE standards, and install solar power.

- **Health** - In 2018, recess was doubled for all grade levels. In addition, up to 33% of regular PE activities take place in the outdoors. The school worked with a local trainer to become a Trauma Informed School, and counselors teach mindfulness and calming strategies. Each month the Principal's newsletter includes a segment on health and wellness tips for families.
- **Learning** - The EcoBuds Club has created student leaders in every grade level who presented their research on hand dryers through the Green Schools Quest. In all grades Maker Space is used to introduce critical thinking and collaborative problem solving using the idea that all materials can be recycled and reused.

Highcroft Ridge Elementary School Nomination Form