

— The —  
**ANTHONY**  
— SCHOOL 

*The Anthony School educates children PreK3 through 8th grade in a challenging and nurturing environment, engages them through an advanced curriculum, and empowers them to become independent and excited students.*

October 31, 2018

Mr. Craig Douglass  
Executive Director  
Regional Recycling and Waste Reduction District  
300 Spring Building, Suite 200  
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Douglass,

I am writing on behalf of The Anthony School in Little Rock to apply for a Regional Recycling District school grant. The funds would be used to help our school begin a recycling program.

The Anthony School has a dedicated group of Board Members, administrators, students, teachers, and parents who are committed to environmental sustainability. Specifically, the Board of Trustees has incorporated environmental education into our values statements, one of which reads as follows: “We believe in fostering a sense of community and stand for environmental sustainability and care for the earth.”

In addition, a group of our Middle School students formed the SEEDS team (Students for Environmental Education and Sustainability) and has actively explored both recycling programs and the possibility of having one at our school. Finally, we have added a garden and have begun composting waste from the cafeteria.

We look forward to growing our student-led recycling efforts and truly appreciate your consideration. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 501-225-6629 (extension 210).

Sincerely,



Dr. Blane Covert  
Head of School



**Applicant**

**The Anthony School (TAS)**

**School Address**

**7700 Ohio Street, Little Rock, AR 72227**

**Private School**

**Number of Students Enrolled in School**

**331**

**Head of School**

**Dr. Blane Covert**

**Contact Person**

**Dr. Julissa Buchmann, SEEDS Coordinator**

**Shana Nolen, STEAM Teacher**

**Daytime Phone (best time to call)**

**(501) 658-8569, Dr. Julissa Buchmann**

**(501) 529-1022, Shana Nolen**

**Evening Phone**

**(501) 658-8569, Dr. Julissa Buchmann**

**Email Address**

**jujibuchmann@yahoo.com**

**shanan@anthonyschool.org**

**Describe your school's recycling or proposed recycling program.**

**TAS Recycling Program Background:**

It is helpful to know the central mission of the The Anthony School (TAS) to better understand the importance of our proposed recycling program. Our mission is to equip children to become passionately curious, creative and confident thinkers, and informed and engaged citizens. TAS believes in fostering a sense of community and stands for environmental sustainability and caring for the earth. **To properly fulfill our mission, our school has no choice but to begin a recycling program.**

The school has already been effective in fostering sustainability on campus. Two years ago, efforts began to create a school garden. **Through a grant from Whole Kids Foundation and partnerships with several general local vendors, our garden has thrived and has become a learning center for all ages at TAS.** Students learn about measurement by building birdhouses, migration through tracking the migration of monarch butterflies, habitats by creating toad abodes and bat houses, permaculture by working with compost layers, and color and texture by studying different vegetables.



Elementary students work in the TAS garden.

Produce from our garden such as basil, mint, carrots, and peppers are used by Chef Paul Novicky in his multicultural, fresh school lunches.



Elementary students plant different herbs and look for caterpillars on the parsley.

The Anthony School has recently begun composting. Students and staff are being instructed on how and why to compost, and this compost will be used in the garden. We are excited about opening up a dialogue on cutting waste and teaching our students the science behind composting.



TAS students are learning about permaculture by making "garden lasagna."

Future projects for the TAS garden include building a drip irrigation system with rain barrels, creating a ZEN garden complete with a labyrinth, and continuing weekly student visits to the garden that align with classroom curriculum.



Preschool students dig holes to plant pollinator flowers for butterflies.



TAS students pass out seeds to encourage others to go green.

**Our garden has become a successful tool in teaching sustainability, and it is now imperative that we begin to recycle at The Anthony School to continue these lessons.**

During a TAS assembly this year, two of our middle school students challenged everyone to **“Plant the seeds to make our school Go Green.”** They handed out packets of grass seeds to make sustainability visible to others. From this, a group of students, parents, and teachers developed **SEEDS (Students for Environmental Education and Sustainability)**. The SEEDS team quickly assumed ownership of a recycling project.

### **TAS Recycling Program Education and Infrastructure Design:**

In August, SEEDS contacted the City of Little Rock Recycling and Sustainability Educator, Tabitha Mullins, about how to implement an effective recycling program in our school as well as how to best educate the SEEDS team and all TAS students on recycling.

After researching recycling markets, the SEEDS team decided to work directly with a local recycling company, Natural State Recycling. The team met with the company’s accounting manager, Karly Schichtl. Along with a member of the school’s janitorial staff, we visually surveyed and estimated amounts and types of materials generated in the school waste stream.



SEEDS team members documented plastic containers from the TAS waste stream audit.

After this initial audit, Natural State Recycling gave TAS a cost proposal. Their recommendation was to start **Mixed Cart Recycling with paper, plastic, aluminum and corrugated cardboard.** Also, using **multiple indoor 96-gallon totes throughout the school** was favored over using one large outdoor dumpster in order to maximize access to convenient recycling for students, avoid issues with contamination and to follow current best management practice.

To develop a basic infrastructure, the SEEDS team began seek funding for these recycling services as well as for collection bins for the school. One solution to this issue was to submit an application for this Regional Recycling District grant.

**During the entire planning process, the SEEDS team has held several meetings with key players to design the infrastructure for the TAS Recycling Program. Key players include but are not limited to:**

- President of the TAS Board of Directors, Dr. Debra Fiser
- TAS Head of School, Dr. Blane Covert
- TAS Assistant Director, Leah Bushey
- TAS Business Director, Beth Carty
- TAS Building and grounds custodian, Brennen Johnson
- TAS Food Service Director, Chef Paul Novicky with Culinary Consultants
- SEEDS team teachers and staff, Shana Nolen and Caitlin Watt
- SEEDS team student team founders, Joseph Buchmann and Gabi Angtuaco, eighth graders
- SEEDS team parents, Dr. Julissa Buchmann (SEEDS Coordinator), Natalie Darnell, (ParentCrew Board), Melissa Angtuaco, Cindy Salisbury, Jennifer Dunlap, Chris Maureen, and Liz Schultz
- City of Little Rock Recycling and Sustainability Educator, Tabitha Mullins
- Natural State Recycling Account Manager, Karly Schicht

**Include the following information as it applies to your program:**

**What recyclables will be collected?**

**Paper, plastic, aluminum and corrugated cardboard will be collected.**



Students prepare repurposed boxes for use as containers for recyclables.

**How will they be collected?**

**Step one:** Students, teachers, and staff are to place all mixed paper in card boxes labeled for mixed paper recycling that will be located in the classrooms/offices.

**Step Two:** Every Friday during their Academic & Enrichment Period, the SEEDS team students will remove collected recyclables from classrooms and check for contamination. All mixed paper that is dry and clean will be dumped in designated indoor containers (96-gallon totes located in the corresponding school hallway for the area of collection).

**Step Three:** All empty water bottles and aluminum cans are to be placed in 96-gallon indoor totes labeled for exclusively plastic bottles and aluminum cans recycling. These designated containers will be located in the school cafeteria. SEEDS team ambassadors will take turns at the cafeteria containers to remind students how to properly recycle.

**Step Four:** Custodians are to collect all recycling receptacles from offices, libraries, labs, and teacher's lounge. At designated locations, recyclables will be emptied into corresponding indoor 96-gallon tote(s).

**What will you do with them?**

Students and custodians will bring all 96-gallon totes to designated indoor area, the TAS lobby, every two weeks. **Natural State Recycling will come every two weeks to pick up our filled recycling totes and replace them with empty ones.** The frequency may be adjusted based on unanticipated volume of recyclables.

**How many students will be/are involved in the program? What grade(s)?**

**We are beginning the program with students in third through eighth grades (175 students). Each of these grades will have at least two SEEDS team student recycling ambassadors who will be trained in proper recycling techniques in a workshop. These students will then train classmates by visiting classrooms to explain the new recycling procedures and by creating recycling display boards for the hallways.**

The SEEDS team ambassadors are committed to keeping their classmates engaged, active, and involved in this effort. As initial recycling efforts are galvanized, the SEEDS team will be expanded into a club with regular meeting times where all students can learn about sustainability and tackle recycling projects. **We would love for every student to participate in this program which focuses on being good stewards of our planet.**



Students prepare repurposed cardboard boxes for use as containers for classroom recyclables.

Until the club is organized, SEEDS team students are preparing uniformly sized cardboard boxes to be used to collect classroom/office paper. The SEEDS team students will check for contamination and dump the contents of the boxes into designated totes located strategically throughout the school.

SEEDS team students are designing standardized labels with specific instructions on how to Recycle Right to attach to the cardboard boxes. They are also creating educational and encouraging posters to place beside recycling boxes and in other key places throughout the school.

**Who is responsible for running the program and training volunteers?**

**SEEDS team students will be heavily involved in the recycling program by monitoring recyclables for contaminants, promoting the program, and spreading the word about our school's environmental efforts.**



**The SEEDS team is to be in charge of engaging their classmates in recycling through classroom trainings and classrooms collection and quality control challenges.**

In order to be properly able to train students and staff at TAS, the SEEDS committee is currently in discussions with Tabitha Mullins with the City of Little Rock on scheduling educational workshops for SEEDS team parent and student volunteers. These workshops will teach correct recycling protocol, how recycling works, and why recycling matters.

The SEEDS team student ambassadors will then work with parent volunteers to teach their classmates. We feel as though empowering these trained student ambassadors to train their classmates is pivotal in creating ownership and pride in the TAS recycling program.

**Who are the active participants (students, custodians, parents, local businesses, community volunteers, et al)?**

**Teachers, administration, custodians, parents, and students will all be participating in the TAS recycling program.** Specific partners for both the recycling program and the TAS garden include but are not limited to:

Whole Kids Foundation, Oak Creek Sod & Landscape, Fuller & Son, Cantrell Gardens, Central AR Lawn Care, Garcia Lawn Care, Natural State Horticulture Organics, Natural State Recycling, Culinary Consultants, City of Little Rock Recycling and Sustainability, and J&J Cleaning Company.

**How will your program be developed or expanded?**

As stated earlier in the application, the SEEDS team will be expanded into a club with regular meeting times where all students can learn about sustainability and tackle recycling projects.

We'd like to eventually purchase sturdier, permanent bins/containers for collection of recyclable materials. We will follow guidelines from [recyclingatwork.org](http://recyclingatwork.org) for bins to boost recycling. For example, we'd like to install desk recycling bins paired with smaller trash cans, especially in the administrative offices and next to teacher desks.

We absolutely plan to expand our efforts to include preschool through second grades as soon as possible.

We'd like to recycle more items that do not go in the recycling containers, such as electronics, product pouches, toys, and other hard-to-recycle items, through periodical collection drives.

The SEEDS team will also be working closely with our STEAM classes to incorporate lessons on sustainability into their curriculum. Furthermore, our school holds a yearly event called STEAMapalooza, a huge celebration that invites members of the community to come and share hands-on lessons about all things related to science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. This event will have a section devoted to how STEAM is related to reducing, reusing, and recycling.

We will hold fun periodical incentives for the school. For example, we are planning on a series of weekend educational workshops for students and their parents. The SEEDS team will also hold fun challenges to keep students involved throughout the year such as tree plantings, reusing waste to create works of arts to be displayed, and challenges to students to reduce their waste in various ways.

### **How will the program continue after the grant money is expended?**

The SEEDS team is partnering with ParentCrew, our parent volunteer organization, for any needed funding in the future. Furthermore, we will hold fundraisers throughout the year to raise funds for any financial needs we may have. We are confident that our support system at The Anthony School is behind our efforts and willing to help any fundraising efforts.

### **Include project timeline.**

**NOV 2018** (week before the SEEDS program kick-off)  
Students distribute cardboard collection bins.  
Classroom bin decoration competition begins.  
Natural State Recycling delivers totes.  
SEEDS team attends first educational workshop with the Recycling and Sustainability Educator from the City of Little Rock.

SEEDS team meets with TAS Head of School to develop agenda for program kick-off day.

Letter to parents goes out introducing our program, and program is introduced on all TAS social media..

Press Release goes out announcing kick-off rally.

**NOV 2018** (SEEDS program kick-off week)

November 14, 2018, will be the SEEDS recycling kick-off day. We will celebrate America Recycles Day with a student-led rally where our new program will be introduced. Students will take a recycling pledge, and the winners of the bin decoration contest will be announced.

**NOV/DEC 2018**

SEEDS team completes quantitative school waste audit and starts tracking data monitoring progress and measuring the impact of implementing recycling.

**DEC 2018/JAN 2019**

SEEDS team begins teaching classmates lessons from initial education workshop.

**DEC 2018/ MARCH 2019**

SEEDS team takes field trip to a recycling facility.

SEEDS Club begins meetings.

SEEDS team begins informational workshops for interested parents and students.

**APRIL 2019**

Earth Day Event celebrated with select challenges and contests.

**MAY 2019**

TAS STEAMapalooza event hosts speakers on sustainability and recycling.

**AUG/OCT 2019**

SEEDS anticipates participation in the Recycle Bowl Competition based on program development.

### **SPRING 2019**

SEEDS anticipates participation in the Great American Cleanup.

### **FALL 2019**

SEEDS anticipates participation in Green Apple Project, organization of an event with Keep Arkansas Beautiful, and hosting a recycling fundraiser.

### **Additional Documentation**

-A copy of your school's waste-reduction or recycling policy (if available) **N/A**

-Letter(s) of support from the school officials and/or sponsors **Attached in e-mail**