

Hopkins County's Environmental Education Program

Meeting smiling students of Hopkins County when she enters the room is one of the most rewarding experiences of the Environmental Education Coordinator of Hopkins County, Vicki Presley. Ms. Vicki has worked for the Hopkins County Conservation District for 20 years.

The Hopkins County Conservation District's Environmental Education Program was designed and implemented in 2000 by Mrs. Presley, Environmental Education Coordinator. It is designed to educate students about nature and Environmental concerns that affect them and their families in Hopkins County.

The program is taught in 9 Elementary Schools with 60 elementary teachers on a regular basis, and middle school teachers upon request. It reaches about 8,000 student/teacher contacts each year. Some of the topics that are taught are Habitats, Trees, Rocks, Water Pollution, Plants, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, and Insects, just to name a few.

Besides teaching the Environmental Ed lessons, Mrs. Presley helps judge some science fairs in some of the schools, and has helped with garden projects and other outdoor classroom activities.

Another project that is held every year is Youth Ag Day. This event usually has 150-200 students each year. The District sponsors this event at no cost to the schools. Agencies and other community leaders provide programs for the students during the day. Students enjoy the topics that the leaders present.

Gathering and distributing Scholarship information to the Seniors at each high school is another task of the Environmental Education coordinator. The Jim Claypool Art Contest and the Conservation Essay Contest is a successful event that is held every year. Mrs. Presley distributes the pamphlets and art paper that each participating school needs for these contests. The Hopkins County Conservation District has a great response, having 100% student participation from most of the elementary schools.

Ms. Vicki helps with the Conservation Banquet that is held every year. It is said to be one of the largest Banquets to be held in Kentucky. She prepares the

certificates to be awarded, prints the invitations, helps with table decorations and program for the night. At the banquet, farmers and other adults are recognized for their outstanding accomplishments and the winners of the Art and Essay contest are invited. The District usually has around 200+ in attendance that enjoy a delicious meal sponsored by the Hopkins County Conservation District.

This Environmental Education Program has been a Great success in its 20 year existence. It is well- received by teachers and students.



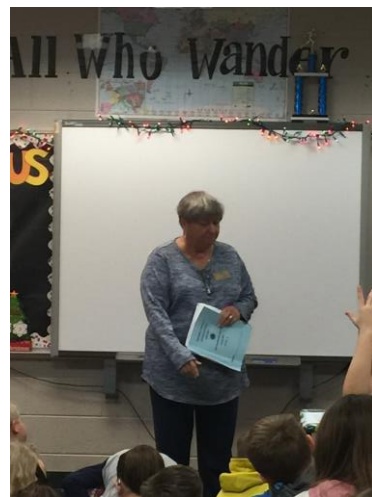
Farm Animals at Youth Ag Day



Winners of Art Contest announced at the annual Awards Banquet.



The Plant – n – Me, an Environmental Education Lesson.



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