

Hopewell Valley Regional High School



Certified School



**Carolyn McGrath,
Visual Arts Teacher**

Q

Why did you decide to become a River-Friendly School?

A

Hopewell Valley Central High School's decision to engage in the River-Friendly certification process was driven by two students who wanted to see their school recognized for actions we were already participating in.

Q

What have your students or school gotten out of being a River-Friendly School?

A

It was a wonderful learning experience for students to lead the certification process. They were responsible for soliciting and managing the information they gathered from teachers and administrators. They also wrote most of the narrative submission. When it was completed, they had a great feeling of accomplishment and pride!

Q

How was the process of becoming a certified school?

A

The process of becoming a certified school was very collaborative. The students worked with several teachers (including me) and administrators. They also worked with the River-Friendly Coordinator to ensure our submissions matched the criteria.

Q

What advice or resources would you share with a school looking to become a River-Friendly School?

A

My advice would be to do it! There are probably many action items that you are already doing that can earn points. It's also a good opportunity to spur your school toward greater action!

Q

How do you connect RF topics to required learning standards?

A

Many of the lessons that we included in our submission are part of the Introduction to Ecology or AP Environmental Science class at the high school, which include Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Others addressed the NJ Student Learning Standards in Climate Change, such as a lesson I did in my art class.

Q

What are some examples of lessons or projects that you did as part of the certification?

A

Circular Economy & Waste Unit
Environmental Issues and Collage
Invasive Species Synthesis Essay

Contact Olivia for more lesson details:
ospildooren@thewatershed.org