



School Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

School and District's Certifications

The signatures of the school principal and district superintendent (or equivalents) on the next page certify that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge. *In no case is a private school required to make any certification with regard to the public school district in which it is located.*

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades early learning to 12.
2. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. Neither the nominated public school nor its public school district is refusing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is not subject to the jurisdiction of OCR. The nominated DoDEA schools, however, are subject to and in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements to comply with Federal civil rights laws.
4. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
5. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
6. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the public school or public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
7. The school meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.
8. The school or its district has in place and is willing to provide a link to or a copy of a non-discrimination policy, upon request. The U.S. Department of Education reserves the right to disqualify a nomination and/or rescind an award if unlawful discrimination is later discovered.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools

Name of Principal:

(Specify: Ms., Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official School Name:

(As it should appear on an award)

**Private Schools: If the information requested is not applicable, write N/A in the space*

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

Date:

(Principal's Signature)

Name of Superintendent:

(Specify: Ms., Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in official records)



District Name:

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

Date:
(Superintendent's Signature)

Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

- 1. The school has some configuration that includes grades Pre-K-12.
- 2. The school is one of those overseen by the Nominating Authority which is highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
- 3. The school meets all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency:

Name of Nominating Authority:

(Specify: Ms., Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

Date:
(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: October 31, 2026

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.



U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools 2024 Missouri Application

School Contact Information

School Name: Nerinx Hall	Street Address: 530 E Lockwood	
City: Webster Groves	State: Missouri	Zip: 63119
Website: nerinxhall.org	Facebook: Nerinx Hall	
Principal: Dr. Molly Grumich	District: NA	
Principal Email: mgrumich@nerinxhs.org	Principal Phone: 314-968-1505	
Lead Applicant and Position (if different):		
Lead Applicant Email:	Lead Applicant Phone:	

School Eligibility and Compliance (put an x by all that apply)

1. The school has some configuration that includes one or more of grades Pre-K-12.	x
2. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction as highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.	x
3. Neither the nominated public school nor its public school district is refusing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is not subject to the jurisdiction of OCR. The nominated DoDEA schools, however, are subject to and in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements to comply with Federal civil rights laws.	x
4. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.	x
5. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.	x
6. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the public school or public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.	x
7. The school meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.	x

School Characteristics

Level <input type="checkbox"/> Early Learning Center <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary (PK - 5 or 6) <input type="checkbox"/> K - 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Middle (6 - 8 or 9) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High (9 or 10 - 12)	School Type <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private/Independent <input type="checkbox"/> Charter <input type="checkbox"/> Magnet	How would you describe your school? <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural	Total Enrolled: 644 Graduation rate: 100% Attendance rate: N/A
Does your school serve 40% or more students from disadvantaged households? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
% receiving free or reduced priced lunch (FRPL): Nerinx Hall has a robust need-based financial aid program to provide financial assistance to those families whose financial resources cannot meet all tuition costs. 43% of families receive aid totaling more than \$2 million.	% limited English proficient: Nerinx does not have any limited English speakers.	% total disadvantaged students – without double counting , provide the total percentage of students that are receiving FRPL and/or have limited English proficiency, and/or have learning disabilities: Approximately 23% receive support for learning disabilities	

Summary Statement

Nerinx Hall is an independent, Catholic school serving 644 girls in grades 9-12, founded in 1924 by the Sisters of Loretto. The Sisters have long prided themselves on a commitment to caring for the earth. As a sponsored school, Nerinx continues to reaffirm our own commitment as well. Our school’s 2020-2025 Strategic Plan outlined Sustainability as one of five areas of emphasis with specific goals that mirror Pillars 1, 2, and 3. The plan states that the school will work to “Reduce environmental impact and costs, improve the health and wellness of students and staff, and continue to educate our community on environmental and sustainable practices.” A successful school-wide composting program, Energy Star tracking, and the incorporation of retention basins and native plants on our campus contribute to our environmentally sustainable campus. Our holistic approach to student and staff health, exemplified by an expanded Student Success Center, health initiatives, and diverse club offerings, reflects a dedication to fostering a healthy and thriving school community. Our curriculum and day-to-day efforts reflect a commitment to Pillar 3, Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education. The integration of comprehensive and sustainability education in our curriculum, supplemented with meaningful service learning opportunities, ensures students are empowered and inspired to become conscientious stewards of the earth. The influence of the Sisters of Loretto and our current strategic priorities continue to guide Nerinx Hall in its commitment to sustainability and environmental operational policies, student and staff wellness initiatives, and educational offerings.

Engagement, Benchmarking and Recognition

List the members of the team that helped prepare documentation and their role in the school.

1. Molly Grumich, Principal
2. Jody Patterson, Director of Student Experience
3. Sylviane Bonino, World Language Dept. Chair & Moderator of Planet Patrol/Current Parent
4. Liz Clyne, Science Department Member and Environmental Science Teacher/Current Parent
5. Katie Mulhall, Director of Library Services
6. Daniel Calvert, Director of Food Services/Current Parent
7. Mike Sawicki, Director of Physical Plant
8. Katie Young, Social Studies Department member/Current Parent
9. Michelle Searcy, School Nurse/Current Parent
10. Arsenia Tate, Director of Equity and Inclusion
11. Steve Kuensting, Science Department Chair
12. Annalise Jacknewitz, Senior at Nerinx Hall and officer of Planet Patrol
13. Katherine Curran, Senior at Nerinx Hall and officer of Planet Patrol

List any programs you are currently using to benchmark or measure your progress in sustainability.

1. Energy Star Portfolio Manager for utilities consumption/reduction efforts
2. Ameren Pure Power and other utility statements
3. Missouri Green Schools START program
4. Trash, recycling and compost hauler statements and records

List any recognition or awards you have received in the last five years related to your efforts in any of the pillars.

1. Nerinx Eco-Act students featured on KMOV News Channel 4, October 8, 2018 for work educating elementary students through Eco-Act class/program.
2. In April 2019 News Channel 4 did a piece on Nerinx and our composting program
3. In February 2019 the St. Louis Review did an article highlighting our new composting program
4. Award from the Federated Garden Clubs of Missouri for the success of our infrastructure project and creek bed installation along Big Bend/Lockwood. The dry creek bed features native plants and trees, all of which manage the water flow from the parking lot.
5. Fall 2023 we earned the Sapling level from Missouri Green Schools.

The Pillars & Elements

Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

Energy and Greenhouse Gases

- Replaced a 1953 gas fired boiler with two new 80% efficient Burnham steam sectional boilers. They run in tandem with a continuous modulating burner and a heat timer. This allows Nerinx to better control when the boilers are in use, thus reducing our energy consumption.
- Energy Star Tracking: we began at a rating of 52 and are now consistently over 70 as we work towards reaching 75.
- Took advantage of Ameren rebates to replace T-8 fluorescent fixtures with LED bulbs. We also replaced exterior lights with LED bulbs.
- Implemented a nightly setback on heating and cooling with Johnson controls in the theater and Mitsubishi heat pumps in the west hallway.
- Recent replacement of air conditioning and furnace in Lockwood House-a major campus building.

- Have chosen new energy efficient lights and HVAC systems in all renovations and new construction projects.

Water and Grounds

- The installation of water bottle filling stations not only provide a convenient way for students to refill their water bottles but also contribute to the reduction of single-use plastic waste. Students are encouraged to bring their water bottles to school daily, fostering a culture of sustainability and responsibility. Nerinx has three stations and to date have diverted over 100,000 water bottles from landfills.
- In 2021 renovations of the parking lot and front entrance that includes a retention basin that complies with Metropolitan Sewer District Project Clear.
- Complete renovation of the interior courtyard (4900 sq feet) to create a larger green space with native plants and improved drainage.
- Compliance with the City of Webster Groves tree plan in all construction projects replacing and improving plantings with native plants.
- Nerinx has set irrigation limits and more drought resistant plants on campus.
- Reduction in the number of times the grass is cut. We began with 36 times a year and are down to 30.

Waste

- In February of 2019 Nerinx began composting. Our efforts have diverted 99,000 pounds of trash from landfills, the equivalent of 9 cars removed from the roads, and 41 tons of equivalent carbon dioxide emissions.
- In the 19-20 school year our food service company made the move to all compostable items. Anything that comes from our cafe can be composted (boats, sauce cups, plates, napkins, silverware, to-go containers).
- Loretto Center (48,000 sf) demolition included many recycling efforts. All concrete was crushed and reused as backfill along with taking crushed rock from the MSD tunnel project, all cleaning chemicals were donated to a minority contractor, all pipe and wire was recycled and the old communion rail now serves as benches in the Grand Center Park.
- Since we began tracking our trash each day the school has reduced the number of weekly pickups from five to three- a 40% reduction. The evening cleaning crew takes a picture each night and sends it to me the following morning.
- Nerinx recycles items whenever we can:
 - Our tech office and facilities office collaborate to make sure that outdated and broken electronic devices are recycled at MRC electronics recycling center.
 - We recycle used batteries by taking them to Batteries Plus stores.
 - Throughout the school we have recycle bins for single stream recycling.
 - We recycle Expo Markers using TerraCycle Zero Waste Boxes.
- To support our efforts and make it convenient for families our School spirit shop sells reusable items for lunch including fabric snack and sandwich bags, bamboo cutlery, stainless steel straws and Frego reusable glass containers.

Transportation

- Since Nerinx Hall is a private school we do not have bus transportation. Instead we promote carpooling and responsible habits for drivers, such as no idling.
- In the summer of 2023 we established no idle zones on our campus, emphasizing our dedication to minimizing unnecessary energy consumption.
- The promotion of carpooling for off-campus field trips and sporting events.

Purchasing

- We prioritize the acquisition of compostable items such as napkins, utensils, and food containers. In 2021 the school created a new policy that required all events to use compostable items only. Nerinx is striving to have zero-waste events.
- Nerinx purchases only Apple devices (one for every staff member and student) that are all packaged in 100% recyclable or responsibly sourced materials. The frames of all computers are also created from 100% recycled aluminum.
- The paper we buy is from Boise Paper and is part of their Project UP 2020 program.
- Nerinx is committed to using environmentally safe cleaning products. We work with our vendors to limit harmful chemicals in the products we choose.
- Continuing participation in utility incentive programs through Ameren and Spire.

Pillar II: Improved Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Environmental Health

- Nerinx relies on Rottler for pest control solutions and we use this company because they are GreenPro certified.
- Murphy Company comes to campus quarterly to clean and maintain our HVAC to prevent particle build up, during this visit all filters are changed.
- Gutters and roof drains are cleaned regularly to avoid mold and water build up.
- Nerinx is a no smoking on the campus : signage throughout the campus-includes both smokeless and smoking tobacco products, including vaping.
- Over the past four years Nerinx has added several air purifiers with HEPA filters to provide our campus community with the cleanest air possible. Filters are changed monthly to ensure optimal performance.

Nutrition and Fitness

- We prioritize providing access to a variety of nutritious and appealing meals that accommodate the health and nutrition needs of all students such as fresh fruit and vegetables, vegan, vegetarian, and gluten free.
- We provide healthy snacks for students throughout the day at no cost.
- All students are required to take Health Education class during their sophomore year and a PE activity class during their junior or senior year.
- For our freshmen students our Director of Student Experience offers Rec Nights quarterly. The Rec Nights include things like volleyball or pickleball and are a chance for our new students to get together and have fun.
- During the 22-23 school year Nerinx had an after school Pickbleall league and a walking/yoga group for our staff.
- Among the 40+ clubs offered to students are Fitness & Wellness Club, Gardeners, Students Creating Wellness and Balance, Medical Careers Club, Planet Patrol, K-Pop Dance Club, Outdoor Explorers, STEM Club, and Yoga.
- Nerinx offers 14 sports teams and over 50% of our student body participates.

Coordinated School Health Programs

- Our Student Success Center (SSC) provides a variety of support services to develop skills related to academic success, college readiness, and social-emotional growth. The SSC is composed of Academic & Wellness Counselors, College Counselors, Learning Consultants, a Writing Coach, Math Coach, and Testing Center.

- In the 22-23 school year Nerinx hired a new nurse who is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner to lead our student health services.
- Nerinx has an athletic trainer that works with all sports teams and attends all home contests. The trainer also works in conjunction with our school nurse to make sure that student athletes are well cared for during school and after.
- To safeguard the health of our community, we organize an annual flu vaccine clinic for faculty, staff, students and their families.
- A variety of clubs that actively promote health, wellness, and sustainability. These clubs, including Fitness & Wellness Club, Gardeners, Markers Creating Wellness and Balance, Medical Careers Club, Planet Patrol, K-Pop Dance Club, Outdoor Adventure, STEM Club, and Yoga at the Hall, offer diverse avenues for students to engage in activities that contribute to their overall well-being and the sustainability of our school community.
- Weekly Care Team meetings to discuss the well-being and academic progress of students. This platform provides faculty and staff the opportunity to address a variety of concerns, such as social emotional, behavior issues, and academic performance.
- We utilize an electronic medical records program, allowing school personnel to manage medications, track immunizations, and add treatment notes with every student visit. This helps us provide safer care for every student.
- Yearly emergency training for all staff on cardiac emergencies, AED use, seizure first aid, anaphylaxis symptoms, epinephrine use, opioid overdose, and use of narcan.
- We have 3 mounted AEDs on campus and one traveling AED for use during sporting events.
- Our school maintains standing orders for emergency medications including epinephrine, albuterol, and narcan for use in emergency situations.
- We offer free feminine hygiene products to all students.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

- At Nerinx we value differences and respectful expression of our individual opinions. We put in the hard work to practice the best way to have difficult conversations, and use our Cultural and Conversational norms <https://www.nerinxhall.org/about/our-cultural-conversational-norms> as a guide.
- The Bridge program effectively bridges the gap by addressing the material needs of students through the provision of goods (new and gently used clothing, accessories, and shoes) while simultaneously fostering dialogue, relationship building, and community support. This shopping experience plays a crucial role in offering essential items and serving as a focal point for interaction and connection among students.
- No Place for Hate school initiative designed to combat discrimination, bias, and prejudice within our school community. Through the "No Place for Hate" program, we implement educational initiatives that promote understanding, tolerance, and empathy.
- St. Louis Mosaic Project School Ambassador allows us to actively engage in initiatives that celebrate diversity and foster a sense of belonging within our school community. As part of our involvement, we organize and participate in events that celebrate diversity and multiculturalism. These events provide opportunities for students, staff, and the broader community to learn about and appreciate different cultures, traditions, and perspectives.
- Student Enrichment Opportunities go beyond traditional classroom instruction, offering all of our students a chance to explore, discuss, and understand the importance of diversity in a supportive and educational setting. All Juniors attend a Cultural Leadership Day facilitated by LEAD STL, Five students have participated in the 2023 Diversity Leadership Conference (SLUH), Two students attended the 2023 Unite for Justice Conference (St. Joseph's Academy), six Juniors were accepted into the 23/24 class of Youth Leadership St. Louis, and 42 students

attended Markers at the Movies for a private screening of Killers of the Flower Moon to learn about Native American History.

- Nerinx created the role for a Director of Equity & Inclusion in 2021. To support the person in this role Nerinx joined a Cultural Competency Cohort under the Direction of Danielle Harrison from Mission Faith Equity Consulting. Danielle continues to provide coaching, professional development, and assessment tools to support the Nerinx community.

Pillar III: Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Curriculum and Assessment

- In Fall 2023, we launched a comprehensive *Soft Inquiry of Curriculum & Practices* to critically evaluate existing curriculum structures. We moved beyond the conventional approach of reviewing curriculum through a DEI lens, instead emphasizing the distinct considerations for diversity, inclusion, equity and justice. Our soft inquiry will provide a vital moment of introspection and reflection, fostering a deeper understanding of the nuances within each concept.
- Eco- Spirituality course - In a world facing pressing environmental challenges, the Eco-Spirituality course explores the profound intersection of faith, ecology, and stewardship through the lens of Catholic theology. In this course students will embark on a transformative journey, deepening their understanding of ecological issues while nurturing a profound spiritual connection with the natural world.
- Environmental Science - Year long, college credit course focused on ecosystem dynamics, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, water resource management, energy resources, human environmental health issues, climate change and solutions. Includes an emphasis on environmental justice issues both locally and globally including food insecurity, lead poisoning, air pollution and the Westlake Landfill.
- Eco-Act - Environmental Leadership Course through the Missouri Botanical Garden focused on teaching elementary students about ecology, outdoor educational experiences throughout the year and researching and implementing a community engagement project at school related to local environmental issues. The class is selective and Nerinx students must apply and be interviewed by the Garden and then selected for the course. Annually Nerinx has 4-8 students who are allowed to be part of the program.
- Natural Science of Missouri - Summer course that introduces students to local ecosystems and geology and conservation issues associated with each. Includes several outdoor learning experiences including visits to local conservation areas and state parks.
- Biology classes complete a final project researching a specific ecosystem, its biodiversity, and associated conservation issues and solutions.

Professional Development

- Annually Nerinx Hall's staff has a day called Faculty Day Away. It is a PD day for the adult staff. In 2019 we spent our day at EarthDance Organic Farm in Ferguson, MO. The goal of EarthDance is to advance food justice by training organic farmers/gardeners of all ages, providing connection to healthy land, vegetables, and cultivating a vibrant community.
- Liz Clyne, one of our Science teachers has earned her Master's in Conservation Biology as part of the inaugural cohort of the AIP (Advanced Inquiry Program) of Miami University in partnership with the Missouri Botanical Garden. Program focused on experiential learning, community engagement and field studies at the Missouri Botanical Garden and other local conservation organizations and institutions. Including a 10 day summer immersion program to Thailand to study Buddhism in Conservation.
- Beth Buchek, Theology Department chair, and Sylviane Bonino, World Language Department chair, attended the Washington University Campus Sustainability Tour on May 5, 2022 with

four student leaders from the Planet Patrol club. This was an in-person tour which included 5 LEED Platinum buildings on the new East End of WashU's main campus; a parking garage that can transition to a future without cars; beautiful sustainable landscaping examples including a green roof, rain gardens, and native plantings; a butterfly garden; a student-run micro-farm; an indoor living wall; and even a close-up look at a roof-top solar panel array.

- Beth Buchek also participated in the 2022 Sustainability Institute for Educators- The Joy of Nature. The Sustainability Institute for Educators challenges participants to help learners build awareness, recognize responsibility, and take action as global citizens working to build a sustainable world. Held annually in June, the institute is designed for informal and K-12 educators from all roles and environments.
- Teachers attended the MSD Clean Water Educator Workshop February 17, 2021 to learn about our local watershed and issues in our community related to stormwater runoff. Demonstration on using the EnviroScapes: to teach students about these topics.
- In conjunction with the other Loretto schools in the country, Nerinx is dedicated to the health of our beautiful earth and the promotion of all her people. Loretto Sister Liz Deines creates a Laudato Si' monthly calendar and shares Laudato Si' insights with us. (Laudato Si' is the name of Pope Francis' encyclical on caring for our common home — planet earth. The letter is addressed to "every person living on this planet" and calls for a global dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet through our daily actions and decisions.)

Outdoor Learning Experiences

- Nerinx offers athletic summer camps and open play for various ages and interests.
- Throughout the year the Director of Student Experience coordinates school-wide opportunities to build community and a sense of belonging among the students, faculty and staff. i.e. Neighborhood Block Party, Petting Zoo, Bounce Houses, and Homecoming.
- Humanities offers several walking tours throughout the year to enhance learning about the exploration of nature and physical space.
- The Garden Club plans, plants, and cultivates a food garden on campus. The garden is located on the west side of campus where they grow tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers. The vegetables are shared with those in our community.
- Eco-act students participate in various outdoor education activities including cave exploration, hiking, camping, canoeing and rock climbing.
- Environmental science classes utilize campus to study urban runoff, campus biodiversity and urban heat island effect. In addition, students participate in an ecology/water quality study at Litzsinger Road Ecology and Sustainability tour of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.
- 2010- 2023 Costa Rica Sea Turtle Ecology Trip/Course: Nerinx students have participated in an ecology focused trip to Costa Rica to learn about rainforest ecology and participate in sea turtle conservation studies.
- 2024 Belize Tropical and Marine Ecology trip - students participate in herpetology and bat field studies at a field station in the Maya Mountains and coral reef conservation at the Belize Barrier Reef.
- Annually Sophomore students are able to take a trip to the Loretto Motherhouse in Loretto Kentucky to help on the working farm. Each June six Nerinx students join students from the other Loretto schools in a week of service.
- Outdoor Adventures Club is an active club that does a variety of activities to connect to the outdoors. The club has participated in Forest Releaf of Missouri at their potting event in March of 2023. They also attended Earth Day events in Forest Park in April 2023. They have a campaign trip planned for April 2024 at the Loretto Motherhouse in Loretto Kentucky.
- Students in the Missouri Natural Science course (summer 2024) will complete several outdoor

experiences including cave tours and visits to local state parks and conservation sites.

Community Engagement

- The Service Learning Program strives to differentiate service from volunteering. Volunteering is the giving of one's time to others. Activities that meet the yearly service hour requirement at Nerinx Hall focus on service which is, seeking opportunities to respond to areas of deep human need, challenging the dehumanizing aspects of our world, increasing awareness of ecological concerns and promoting a just peaceful society. Through this program our students participate in service that takes them deeper than volunteering.
- Founder's Day is an annual celebration of the founding of the Sisters of Loretto. Our celebration has breakout sessions led by our students and some community members with the focus on green initiatives. Our Planet Patrol, Garden Club, Eco-Act, and Outdoor Adventures club have all presented on various topics in the last few years.
- Eco-Act students implement a community engagement project at school to educate the community about various conservation issues including planting native/pollinator gardens, assessment composting/recycling behavior of the student body and honeysuckle removal on campus.
- Students are challenged and encouraged to perform service work that responds to a deep need. Senior Hazel Johnson opted to serve Open Space STL, an organization committed to conserving and sustaining land, water and natural resources. Hazel was inspired to further advocate for these vital causes and attended a rally for climate change with other teens.


MEDIA

Submit 8 to 10 photos (with appropriate signed permissions) plus one optional video (5 minutes max) to illustrate your school's efforts. Photos/video should show students actively engaged in learning related to your school's sustainability efforts. This can include playing in outdoor classroom settings, making presentations, going on field trips, working on projects to reduce natural resource usage, learning about sustainability features of their school, or other hands-on activities. Captions should include brief descriptions of the learning taking place and the pillar element to which it relates.

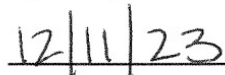
Certification of Photo Releases

As Director of Communications for Nerinx Hall High School, I do hereby certify:

- All students pictured with this nomination have signed parent/guardian photo, video and media release agreements
- In conjunction with said agreements, parents agree that students names, images and likeness may appear not only in Nerinx publications, but in print, broadcast and online through outlets the school partners with, including for the use of institutional development, advertising, award nominations, student or school recognition and similar



Signature of Katie O'Sullivan



Date





Photo Captions

1. The curriculum for Environmental Science includes hands-on field trips such as this one at the Missouri Botanical Garden's Litzsinger Road Ecology Center, an outdoor laboratory for ecological education, research and restoration. (Pillar 3)
2. In 2019, we implemented a school-wide composting program. It extends beyond the cafeteria and includes parent events and rentals as well. Students volunteer to ensure all items are placed in appropriate containers as we strive for zero-waste events. (Pillar 1)
3. Students in Environmental science visited the Missouri Botanical Garden to learn more about sustainability practices and horticulture. (Pillar 3)
4. Nerinx students are challenged to perform service work that responds to a deep need. Senior Hazel Johnson opted to serve Open Space STL, an organization committed to conserving and sustaining land, water and natural resources. Hazel was inspired to further advocate for these vital causes and attended a rally for climate change with other teens. (Pillars 1 & 3)
5. Sustainability efforts are at the heart of several Nerinx student clubs, including Planet Patrol, which was established nearly 30 years ago. The club regularly holds recycling and clothing drives, challenges their peers to enjoy waste-free lunches, and encourages health and wellness through hikes, gardening and other outdoor endeavors. (Pillars 1, 2, 3)
6. Environmental science students measuring biodiversity through macroinvertebrate counts at Litzsinger Road Ecology Center. (Pillar 3)
7. The Sisters of Loretto who founded and sponsor Nerinx Hall, have long championed clean water for all people. On a day dedicated to celebrating the Sister's founding, students made posters to commemorate the causes the Sisters and Nerinx are dedicated to helping. (Pillar 3)
8. Students in the Eco-Act program regularly perform service at sites dedicated to sustainability efforts. Here, students helped cover raised beds at New Roots Urban Farm. (Pillar 1)
9. All 11th grade students take part in a program called Junior Experience to enhance connections among classmates, expose students to new programs and ideas through exploration and diversity training, and have fun! Students on this junior experience helped tend chickens on an urban farm. (Pillars 2 & 3)
10. Students in the Outdoor Explorers club enjoy a variety of activities dedicated to ecological causes. Here, club members helped replant trees at Forest Releaf of Missouri, a non-profit committed to supporting tree and community growth across the state. (Pillars 1,2,3)