



# NEWS RELEASE

ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

the broad prize  
for urban education



2014  
winner

## Orange elementary school named Florida's top "green" building



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Castle Creek Elementary in Orange County has been named the top "Green Building" in the state as part of [Sustainable Florida's 2015 Best Practice Awards](#). The award, accepted by Principal Seth Daub and Assistant Principal Monica Johnson (photo at left), recognizes the work that teachers and other staff do every day to educate students on sustainability, healthy living, and appreciation of the world we live in.

Castle Creek, a Title I school located in East Orlando, was named an OCPS "Green School of Excellence" last year and a "Green School of Promise" the year before through the district Green Schools Recognition Program. They earned those distinctions by improving healthy and "green" practices, such as reducing energy use.

Sustainable Florida, a nonprofit dedicated to recognizing and promoting environmentally-friendly practices, has recognized the school for infusing sustainability topics throughout its curriculum. Students learn about air quality, water conservation and animal habitats as well as recycling, reusing, and repurposing materials. The school uses an improved outdoor classroom and nature walk, grows organic vegetables in the school garden and promotes healthy, balanced eating and daily exercise. Castle Creek was the only school to make the finals in the state contest, competing for the top spot against corporations. They were runner-up for the state award last year.

"Educating our children and the community on being green and preserving our environment is magical!" said Principal Daub. "It is an honor to bring this award back to Orange County Public Schools, our 900-plus students, families, staff and community."

OCPS Facilities Program Director Marc Clinch said the award shows the school's efforts are on track. "It's really about the students, and the culture of sustainability that is now part of their skill set," he said. "Sustainability is not a destination; it's a journey."

The awards were announced Oct. 2 during the Working on the Green Sustainability Summit held at The Plantation on Crystal River.

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