

Chesapeake Connections / Service Learning

Chesapeake Connections is a project of the Anne Arundel County Public School's Environmental and Outdoor Education Program. This project connects classroom instruction with a series of relevant hands-on experiences that lead to environmental stewardship.

The Chesapeake Connection can be described as a "Five Course Meal". It is through participating in all components of the meal that teachers and students realize the rich cultural and biological heritage that we have in the Chesapeake Watershed. These components strongly support Maryland's service learning model:

- **Appetizer** - Staff Development for teachers to include a Chesapeake Watershed update and curriculum and restoration integration
- **Intermezzo** - Coordination of program expectations – Principal / Teacher / Outdoor Education Staff
- **Anti Pasta** - Classroom instruction that supports county and state curriculum
- **Soup** - Outreach instruction at the school to extend classroom instruction & learning
 - Identify schoolyard or community restoration projects
 - Experts to design, plan, and coordinate projects
- **Entrée** - Relevant hands-on activities at the CATN greenhouse to propagate native plant species for projects
 - Supplemental activities such as "Grasses In Class", "Terrapin Head Start Program", and the "Yellow Perch Project"
- **Dessert** - Implement restoration project

An important aspect of the Chesapeake Connection is that there is great effort to assure that the activities are truly relevant. Relevancy assures that the **planning** of the content foundation is solid, the **action** is truly beneficial, and that the **reflection** leads to a true understanding of the responsibility of stewardship.