



MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON

June 15, 2023

John Staley, Acting Principal
Doherty Memorial High School
299 Highland Street
Worcester MA 01602

Dear Principal Staley,

Congratulations to the Doherty Memorial High School Envirothon Team for their hard work and success at the 2023 Massachusetts Envirothon! In addition to placing 3rd at the Soil and Forest stations, and 3rd overall in the competition, the team was one of 5 teams across the state completing requirements for the Mass Envirothon [Community Engagement Award](#) for their work on the 2023 [Current Issue Climate Change in Your Community](#).

2023 participating team members – all from Worcester – included:

Balia Kebeh	Irsa Golemi	Nazrin Ismail
Viktoria Melka	Dea Kamberi	Stephanie Muriuku
Lyna Lam	Olivia Talbot	Ariel Altamirano
Frejsis Telhaj	Grace Sholla	Dana Ansah
Hailey Dunn	Sophia Guerra	Elizah Baez
Angela Dhima	Sophia Simmarano	Victoria Wakadilo
Sage Comeaux	Nicole Martinez Merino	Felix Agyemang
Serxho Kreka	Maria Pena Garcia	Susay Toe

The team was coached by Doherty teachers Stacey Hill of Hardwick and Jess Racine of Worcester.

The Mass Envirothon Community Engagement Award recognizes teams who engage in thorough and wide-ranging community investigations in preparation for their Current Issue presentation AND THEN take this new knowledge and put it to work in an action project in their community. Participating teams' work exemplifies the integration of science and civic knowledge, connections, and skills that is so critical for addressing environmental issues in a democratic society.

Qualifying for this award in 2023 required teams to conduct in-person interviews, visit local sites with significance for climate issues, comb media sources, and research pending state legislation relevant to climate change. Documentation of teams' work – and reflection on what they found – is collected on the [Research and Action Checklist](#). In addition to documenting their research, Envirothon Community Award teams participate in a zoom interview that offers the chance for a wider public to learn about the teams' work and perspectives.

The award aims to recognize high school youth (and their advisors) who meet the goal of student-led civic engagement under the Massachusetts 2018 [Act to Promote and Enhance Civic Engagement](#).

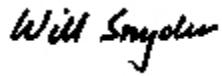
What they did: More than 20 Doherty students were part of this year's Envirothon team! The team's wide-ranging research included interviews and site visits related to water and urban forest issues in

Worcester, as well as sustainability features of the new Doherty school building under construction. For their action, the team shared their research by holding an afternoon Climate Fair in the school's media center, presenting a variety of climate topics in interactive and interesting ways. Over 50 students, teachers, and community people attended. The team also played a key role in planning and presenting at a Youth Climate Summit sponsored by Mass Audubon's Youth Climate Leadership Program.

Envirothon teams gain strong environmental knowledge and community connections through their research and action experiences. They develop teamwork, stewardship values, and skills for civic engagement. They show that they are capable of college level work and that they can make a real contribution to their communities. Their coaches deserve special commendation for the time and care they put into working with the team.

Thank you for your support of the Doherty team and their coaches! More about the Envirothon can be found at <https://www.massenvirothon.org>. More documentation of the Doherty team's work can be found at <https://massenvirothon.org/2023-community-engagement-awards/>. I can be reached at wsnyder@umass.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Snyder". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Will Snyder
Massachusetts Envirothon Steering Committee

cc: Stacey Hill, Envirothon Coach
Jess Racine, Envirothon Coach
Dr. Rachel Monarrez, Superintendent
Representative Mary S. Keefe
Senator Robyn Kennedy
Sarah Bertrand, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary
Toni Caushi, Worcester Telegram & Gazette
Rebecca Tepper, Massachusetts Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs
Stephanie Cooper, Undersecretary for Environment, Massachusetts EEA