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Carver Middle students win 1st place in Fairchild Challenge

By Carmen Perez-Salman / Carver Middle School
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George Washington Carver Middle School students received first place in this year's Fairchild Challenge. The award is given to schools that participate in the environmental education outreach program created in 2002 by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. Each year dozens of middle, high and elementary schools participate in the challenge, which involves numerous categories – everything from performance, to design, to creative writing.

Spearheaded by the school's gifted resource teacher, Louise Gramling, Carver students completed all 10 options of the program, including research posters on invasive plants, intergenerational interviews about the use of plants, an environmental action plan powerpoint presentation and a news video in two languages.

"Carver has been involved in the Fairchild Challenge since middle schools first participated, and we have always made it a school-wide effort," said Ms. Gramling.

In addition to receiving first place, Carver also received 11 honorable mentions and two special-recognition awards.

Members of the winning Carver team included Gricelda Ramos, Barbara Dutra, Stella Khezri, Lourdes Maria Lopez, Alexandra Diaz, Scott Rhor, Patrick Martin and teachers Louise Gramling and Bertha Vazquez (in the photo above).

Carver Middle is a Miami-Dade County Public School magnet for languages and advanced academics located between Coral Gables and Coconut Grove.

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