

# Washington Middle School



## Community Partners

- Calumet Township
- Keweenaw National Historical Park
- Alliance for the Great Lakes
- Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw Great Explorations

## Global Watershed

Sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the MTU Global Watershed program has placed two PhD students at WMS. Mr. Goble (Asiala's 6<sup>th</sup> grade) and Mr. Matthys (Hendrickson's 7<sup>th</sup> grade) help create lesson plans and activities that transfer their doctoral research on watershed science topics to the classroom. This program is intended to help teachers establish inquiry-based research as an integral component of their courses and to strengthen learning, providing a unique experience for WMS students.

## Engaging Students in Great Lakes Stewardship at the Calumet Township Park

For the past few years, Washington Middle School (WMS) has teamed with the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative (LSSI) to offer a unique educational program focused upon community-based learning. Students conduct two major community service projects: Adopt-a-Beach and mapping their school forest, both of which benefit the Calumet Township Park.

Several community organizations assist the students, and the public is invited to participate in any of the Adopt-a-Beach clean-ups. The goal is to involve the community in protecting the Lake Superior shoreline and beaches while teaching about the Lake Superior watershed.

Adopt-A-Beach, which is organized by the

Alliance for the Great Lakes, engages many volunteers throughout the Great Lakes basin in picking up trash along Great Lakes beaches. For the past several years, 7th grade students at WMS have "adopted" the Calumet Township Park beach, and take multiple trips to the beach during the school year. Again this year, 6th grade students will participate in a spring cleanup and removal of invasive species as an introduction to their 7th grade program.

Students will also be working in the Calumet Township Park forest (the Calumet School Forest), using GPS and other forestry tools to map and measure the forest. Applying skills learned in the classroom to real-life situations offers authentic learning to WMS students.

## A Day at the Beach

The beach clean-up is a favorite event for students at WMS. The day is spent picking up trash, sorting and counting it according to specific categories, and recording the information on a data sheet, which is then combined with data collected across the great lakes. Student teams also pull Spotted Knapweed, an invasive species.



## Meet the Team:

2013 - 2014

6th ~ 106 students

7th ~115 students

15 staff members



Expanding classrooms. Strengthening communities.



*Washington Middle School students look forward to outdoor learning activities with excitement that keeps school learning fun and exhilarating. This project has instilled a sense of pride and accomplishment in our youth as they develop a feeling of stewardship for the Great Lakes....*

**Teacher & project coordinator**

Here's what they found:	6th Spring '13	7th Fall '13
Paper Bags	139	38
Plastic Bags	62	192
Balloons	8	24
Bottles/Cans	205/26	155/13
Caps & lids	15/174	92
Cups, plates, & dinnerware		57
Clothing	11	17
Straws	12	27
Toys	9	26
Wrappers	112	394
Pull Tabs	2	27
Tobacco pkg.	1	29
6-Pack holders	1	4
Building materials	19	62
Miscellaneous	6	28
Glass Pieces	108	92
Cigarettes & cigars	1,643	1,200

### Beach Clean-up



## 2013 - 2014 Project Timeline

