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CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATION WITH NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION SUTTON PLACE PARKS CONSERVANCY

New York, NY - Cathedral High School (CHS), a Catholic college preparatory school for young women located in the heart of Manhattan, announced its collaboration with Sutton Place Parks Conservancy, supported by Partnerships for Parks, to create a Native Plant and Pollinator Garden at Sutton Place Park at East 58th Street, in the neighborhood of Cathedral High School. The garden project is meant to bring the community and school together in an endeavor that will have long lasting effects on the climate and ecological system in the area. One goal for the collaboration is for the park to become an official Monarch Butterfly Waystation.

Due to the difficult nature of the project – the 58th street park's plants are affected by its proximity to the FDR– the garden creation will involve careful planning and scientific research conducted by CHS's AP Environmental Science and Technology Foundations classes, as part of the school's S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) curriculum. Jonathan Boo, Director of S.T.E.A.M. and CHS Science Department Chairperson, Kristine Woo, will be heading up project along with Sutton Place Parks Conservancy native plant advisor Jill Bauer.

CHS students and faculty are excited to embark on this real-world application of their cutting-edge S.T.E.A.M. education. Starting with a Design Brief, students from both AP Environmental Science and Technology Foundations classes will conduct research, including a trip to the Native Plant Garden at the New York Botanical Garden, identify problems at the park, research and develop solutions, pick a final landscape design and implement the solutions. Students will continue to analyze the chosen solutions to identify any new problems.

CHS Principal Maria Spagnuolo said, "We look forward to collaborating with our local community to improve our neighborhood, and also welcome the chance for our talented students to apply their advanced knowledge in the interdisciplinary S.T.E.A.M. educational opportunities that we proudly offer at Cathedral."

Sutton Place Parks Conservancy received a grant from Partnerships for Parks for the native plants and the educational materials. The Conservancy will pay the additional costs of renovating the beds and maintenance. The committee overseeing the project will be led by Committee Chair, Jill Bauer, who serves as the Conservancy's native plant advisor, honorary chairperson William Castro, Manhattan Parks Commissioner, and Jonathan Boo and Kristine Woo of CHS. Other committee members include Melissa Hays of TDBank, Susan Price Blackwell of Green Park Gardeners NYC and honorary members Kristy Di Cario of Partnerships for Parks and Maria Spagnuolo, Principal of CHS. The target date for project completion is May 2017.

About Cathedral High School: Founded in 1905, Cathedral is a Catholic, college preparatory school dedicated to empowering young women, academic excellence, and commitment to service. Since 1905, CHS has educated over 35,000 women. True to the spirit in which it was founded, Cathedral High School is a school with ties to a rich history and tradition, and yet it has remained responsive to the ever-changing needs of its students. Part of the curriculum at Cathedral includes course and clubs in the field of S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics), an educational approach to learning that uses science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue and critical thinking. S.T.E.A.M. is an interdisciplinary and whole systems thinking approach to applied learning.