## MOLLOY UNIVERSITY GRADUATE EDUCATION

EDU 5900.18 - TGI 2025: Growing Green Minds in Middle School

- July 14th July 17th
- Asynchronous Online

Instructor: Paul Zaratin

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## Course Description:

In TGI 2025: Growing Green Minds in Middle School, participants will explore strategies for developing environmental awareness and sustainability in middle school students. The course will focus on integrating eco-friendly practices into the curriculum, promoting green thinking, and encouraging students to take action on environmental issues. Key topics include project-based learning, classroom sustainability, and community involvement. Educators will leave the course with practical tools to create a classroom culture that fosters environmental stewardship and empowers students to address both local and global challenges. While tailored for middle school educators, teachers of all grade levels are encouraged to participate as many activities can be adapted for K-12 classrooms. The course aligns with NGSS: ESS3-2 Earth and Human Activity.

## Course Learning Objectives:

- 1. Integrate environmental education into the middle school curriculum.
- 2. Design project-based learning activities focused on sustainability.
- 3. Implement sustainable classroom practices that reduce environmental impact.
- 4. Foster a classroom culture that promotes environmental awareness and stewardship.
- 5. Develop strategies to involve students in local and global environmental issues.
- 6. Create a lesson plan or activity that integrates green thinking concepts into the classroom.

## Course Grading:

Discussion #1: Introduction to Green Thinking (5 pts)

Module #1: Understanding Sustainability in Education (10 pts)
Module #2: Project-Based Learning for Eco-Awareness (10 pts)
Module #3: Integrating Sustainability into the Curriculum (10 pts)

Discussion #2: Sharing Sustainability Practices (5 pts) Module #4: Classroom Sustainability Practices (10 pts)

Module #5: Engaging Students in Environmental Action (10 pts)

Module #6: Promoting Community Involvement (10 pts)

Module #7: Adapting for K-12 Classrooms (10 pts)

Module #8: Create a Green Classroom Activity (20 pts)