As a Boyer School, Crellin Elementary believes that every child has a right to a quality education, that high academic standards must be set, and that every child can and will succeed in ways that reflect his or her own aptitudes and interests. Following the educational priorities of the Basic School, Crellin Elementary has four priorities that are considered the essential building blocks of the school: the School as Community, a Curriculum with Coherence, a Climate for Learning, and a Commitment to Character.

For more information about Crellin Community Corps of Discovery, contact Dana McCauley at 301-334-4704 or dana.mccauley@garrettcountyschools.org
Crellin Elementary Story

The site of the EEL, located adjacent to the school, is thoroughly investigated by the students, including testing water quality, collecting and identifying macro-invertebrates, and exploring the riparian areas. Students work to obtain oral histories to learn about the importance of the natural resources that serve as a vital part of the community. Through journaling and reflection activities, the Corps continues to record and share their findings with the community.

SUNSHINE FARM
Sustainable Living Program

Sunshine Farm is part of Crellin’s agriculture program. The program focuses on teaching students sustainable living practices and research skills. These practices and skills are shared and taught to parents and community members at Learning Celebrations and events. The program is built upon the following Guiding Principles:

CRELLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Children will learn to care for the environment and know what it means to nurture another being.

2. Children will begin to understand the interconnectedness of all organisms.

3. Children will gain a sense of place and responsibility toward their community.

4. By doing actual labor, children will recognize the importance of their contributions in making our community work.

5. Spending time in nature will allow children to develop a strong connection to the natural world and a future interest in protecting it.

Crellin Community Corps of Discovery

Crellin Community Corps of Discovery is a community-based educational initiative that encourages students to take pride in the place where they live, and make connections between themselves, their community, and the local watershed. This program is based on the idea that some of the best teaching and learning experiences grow out of a sense of place. The Corps, as it is commonly called, is an association of students, teachers, community members, nonprofits, and state and federal agencies committed to protecting the natural resources of Crellin and engaging students in meaningful learning opportunities.

Our Journey:

At the confluence of Snowy Creek and the Youghiogheny River, coal mining once supported the small town of Crellin in rural western Maryland. Today, the 130 grade school students of Crellin Elementary School have managed to bring together their community, state and local government, and two watershed management organizations in a cooperative stream restoration initiative. As part of an interdisciplinary program, Crellin developed an Environmental Education Laboratory (EEL) on the banks of Snowy Creek in conjunction with a community-wide restoration project. Modeled after Lewis and Clark’s “Corps of Discovery”, classrooms have become base camps and students are explorers.