

October 12, 2008

## Local schools test waters, heal planet

Oakland County high schools are among those testing local waters for health and safety during a one-month period ending Oct. 18. It's part of a World Water Monitoring Day Program to motivate and instill in children a budding curiosity and knowledge base of the conditions of our great lakes, ponds, springs and rivers. For the past two years, [www.H2bid.com](http://www.H2bid.com), the international clearinghouse for water utility bid opportunities, based in Detroit, has teamed up with the Water Environment Federation and the World Water Monitoring Day Program for the program. H2bid.com selected participating schools, donated the testing kits and helped coach schools on the program.



This year, participating local high schools include Country Day High School (Beverly Hills), Marian High School (Bloomfield Hills), Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Elementary (Beverly Hills), Southfield Lathrup High School (Southfield), Troy Athens High School (Troy), Wylie E. Groves High School (Beverly Hills) and Mercy High School (Farmington Hills). H2bid went one step further this year and included Canadian FJ Brennan High School to test the Detroit River since it is an international program.

They tested upstream and downstream of the Detroit River to compare such results as Ph balance in industrial versus non-industrial water sites. WWMD compiles a shared database on the students' findings after testing.

"As the WWMD program continues to grow, H2bid.com looks forward to helping raise awareness of the importance of understanding the quality of local water sources and the importance of protecting those sources for future generations," said Glenn Oliver, founder of [www.H2bid.com](http://www.H2bid.com). "Hopefully, we are also doing our part to educate future world leaders about the importance of water quality to the planet."

Also this year, H2bid.com donated WWMD water testing kits to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' "Salmon in the Classroom" program. Classrooms raise salmon from eggs (smolt), acquired at a hatchery. The salmon are released into Michigan streams each spring.

"The partnerships make this whole program possible," said Kevin Frailey, DNR interpretive services manager, who oversees the program. "There is no better way to teach stewardship for our natural resources than to have students actually be responsible for their success."