

Benjamin Rush Elementary School

School district: Lake Washington

School location: Redmond

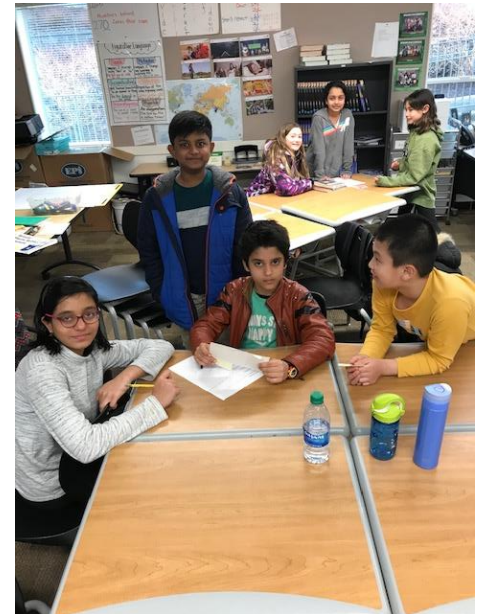
Began participating in Green Schools Program:
February 2019

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in June 2020

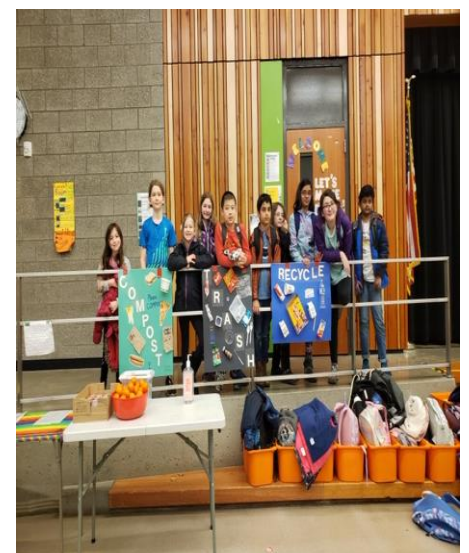
Student Green Team recognition:
Received in June 2023

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school achieved a 52% recycling rate.
- The Green Team was advertised in school announcements and the school's newsletter, Cheetah Chat, to invite students to participate.
- Green Team students from third- through fifth-grade classes met regularly and helped teach the school community why waste reduction and recycling matter and what steps to take to reduce waste.
- A recycling bin was placed next to each garbage bin in classrooms, offices, cafeteria, and other school areas.
- In February 2020, Green Team students completed an inventory of recycling, food scrap, and garbage bins, and requested signs from the Green Schools Program. Students placed the signs on bins in March 2020.
- In 2016, the cafeteria had switched to durable trays and condiment dispensers.
- In February 2020, a food share table was set up for students to place unwanted, unopened, non-perishable foods for other students to take.



The Green Team created 3-D posters to improve lunchroom sorting of recyclable and compostable materials





- Instructional assistant Gail Kaufman monitored all bins and shared information with the school community on materials placed in the wrong bins.
- A Green Schools Program representative advised students as they created 3-dimensional posters with actual items attached to hang above garbage, recycling, and food scrap bins in the cafeteria to help students sort correctly.
- To reduce paper use, signs were posted in the copy room about double-sided copying, printers defaulted to double-sided copying, and staff sent weekly newsletters to families by email.
- In March 2020, students reviewed product labels of Ecolab QC 52 E Glass Cleaner and Ecolab QC 91 E Neutral Bathroom Cleaner for physical hazards, health hazards, environmental hazards, and disposal methods. Teacher Ryan Overland asked the district for the District Chemical Hygiene Plan, and head custodians provided information on what chemicals required special handling.
- The Green Team advisor shared team accomplishments in an email to the school community, and shared with the district successes and photos of students working on waste reduction and recycling actions.

Student Green Team recognition: June 2023

- Green Team advisor and instructional assistant Gail Kaufman invited students to join the team in morning announcements and at lunch.
- The Green Team created new 3-dimensional posters with actual items attached to hang above garbage, recycling, and food scrap bins in the cafeteria to help students sort correctly.
- Team members made announcements at lunch about how to sort, and helped fellow students at lunch if they needed help.
- Green Team students posted signs near light switches around the school to remind the school community to turn off lights when leaving rooms unoccupied.