



## **Kent Elementary School**

**School district:** Kent

**School location:** Kent

**Began participating in the Green Schools Program:** September 2015

**Level One of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2016

**Level Two of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2017

**Level Three of the Green Schools Program:** Achieved in May 2018

### **Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)**

- Kent Elementary School maintained a recycling rate of 43%.
- A student Green Team was created and members were trained to monitor cafeteria waste stations and help students learn to sort their waste at lunch.
- The head custodian visited classrooms to remind students about what can and cannot be recycled and the importance of reusing items to reduce waste.
- The Green Team used recyclable materials to create 3-dimensional signs for the lunchroom as a reference for students when sorting lunchroom waste.
- In the lunchroom, instead of disposing of unwanted, unopened foods and drinks from the school lunch program, students placed those items in a share basket for other students to take.
- To decrease plastic waste, plastic-wrapped utensils were replaced with unwrapped utensils.
- Kent students formed the Earth Defenders Club which helped spread recycling and conservation practices outside of the lunchroom.
- Air dryers were installed in the bathroom to decrease paper towel waste.
- Teachers were encouraged to incorporate messages about waste reduction and recycling into their lesson plans.



# Success Story

*Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink*

- To reduce paper use, staff members were encouraged to make double sided copies, print only what they needed, and send documents electronically.
- Staff members and students were encouraged to write on both sides of paper before recycling the paper.
- Recycling and waste reduction successes were shared over the morning announcements and at lunch.
- For Earth Day, students picked up litter and planted flowers on campus.

## **Energy Conservation (Level Two)**

- Two student “Power Rangers” were assigned in each classroom to turn off lights before leaving and at the end of each day.
- Energy conservation announcements were incorporated into morning announcements throughout the year.
- Emails were sent to staff before school breaks to remind them to turn off and unplug their machines.
- Students and staff were encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather rather than adjust the thermostat.

## **Water Conservation (Level Three)**

- Regular monthly announcements included water conservation facts and tips.
- In morning announcements, the Green Team shared information about the school’s water use. Students and staff were encouraged to report any leaks to maintenance.
- Rain water was collected in buckets to irrigate the school’s flower garden. Water-efficient irrigation was used throughout the campus and in the school garden.
- Custodians installed motion sensors on all faucets to help conserve water.
- High-efficiency and low-flow fixtures were selected when old equipment was chosen.