



Meridian Park Elementary School

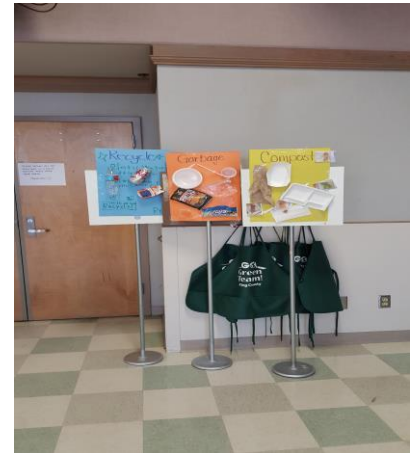
School district: Shoreline

School location: Shoreline

Began participating in the Green Schools Program:
September 2016

Level One of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in January 2017

Level Two of the Green Schools Program:
Achieved in May 2019



3-dimensional posters remind students what can and cannot be collected for recycling and composting.

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Meridian Park increased its recycling rate from 45% to 64% during the 2018-19 school year.
- The school started collecting recyclable and compostable materials in the cafeteria in October 2016. The school placed a recycling bin next to each garbage bin in the lunchroom and in every classroom and office, and placed recycling signs from the Green Schools Program on each recycling bin.
- Green Team students and family volunteers were trained by the Green Schools Program about what can and can't be recycled and composted.
- Green Team students:
 - Created 3-dimensional recycling and waste station posters with actual items glued to them to show how to sort materials during lunch.
 - Created sweatshirts and gave them to custodial and kitchen staff as a thank you for supporting lunchroom recycling.
- All grade levels monitored recycling and waste stations during their lunch periods. Second-grade students monitored the Kindergarten lunch period in addition to their own.



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- Waste reduction and recycling reminders and successes were included in lunch announcements and the school's Cheetah Chatter Newsletter.
- To reduce paper use, the school encouraged staff to print double-sided whenever possible, and teachers posted student assignments on their teacher webpages instead of printing them on paper.
- In 2018-19, from the lunchroom food share table on which students can place unopened, packaged items from the lunch program, the school donated 2,481 pounds of food that would otherwise have been wasted. Family volunteers delivered the foods to Hopelink, a local nonprofit food distribution organization.
- In 2018-19, the school conducted a survey to determine which conservation projects to pursue. Results showed the most popular one was to replace plastic single-use utensils with durable, reusable utensils. School and district staff worked together to determine the feasibility of making that change.
- During 2018-19, Meridian Park collected used restroom paper towels for transport to a regional composting facility along with collected food scraps from the lunchroom and kitchen.
- A "ban the bottle" campaign was conducted by the Green Team to raise awareness about the environmental impacts of single-use plastics and to encourage switching to reusable bottles.

Energy Conservation (Level Two)

- The school maintained its waste reduction and recycling practices, while encouraging energy conservation practices.
- District resource conservation manager Matt Daly created an energy use chart monthly, and shared the data and long-term conservation goals with the school community. The district installed occupancy sensors to turn off lights in restrooms.
- During weekly announcements, the school shared energy conservation facts, tips, and practices with students and staff. For example, announcements



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encouraged students and staff to dress appropriately for the season, and thermostats were set between 68 to 70 degrees.

- Green Team students asked teachers to educate students and other staff about the school's energy conservation goals and results.
- Lights were turned off in unoccupied spaces, and daylight was used instead of electric lights when adequate outdoor light was available.
- The school followed the district's weekend and vacation shut-down procedures, and HVAC systems were set off during weekends, holidays, and extended breaks.