

Green Team Guidance for Reducing Impact

Mission: The Green Team's mission is to build a strong understanding of what it means to be good stewards of the environment and our community.

Please refer to these guidelines as suggestions for how each of us can work together, on an individual and school-wide level, to build a cleaner, greener, and healthier community in which our children can thrive.

Goals:

1. Reduce single-use items, especially plastic
2. Increase recycling and composting
3. Opt for lower-impact options

	DO 	AVOID 
Individual Day-to-Day	BYO reusable water bottles	Single-use plastic water bottles
	BYO cutlery (e.g. bamboo , stainless steel)	Using the school's single-use plastic cutlery
	<i>(If bringing packed lunch)</i> Meatless Mondays! (+ more!)	<i>(If bringing packed lunch)</i> Meat-based meals daily
Parties & Events - Food & Drink	Finger foods (e.g., pizza, cupcakes)	Foods requiring utensils (e.g., pasta, cake)
	Bulk snacks & drinks (e.g., family/value size pretzels, 2L beverages) <i>If bulk is untenable, opt for aluminum/boxed beverages!</i>	Individually wrapped snacks or drinks (particularly if wrapped in plastic) <i>If individual servings are a must, avoid plastic bottles!</i>
	Offer plant-based/meat-free food options	Meat & Dairy

	DO 	AVOID 
Parties & Events - Materials	Paper cups for “bulk” drinks, if necessary	Plastic or styrofoam for “bulk” drinks
	Napkins from recycled pulp (e.g., 7th Generation)	Virgin bleached paper napkins (e.g. this)
	If single-use cutlery is needed, opt for bamboo, recycled, or compostable options.	Plastic cutlery
	Clearly label and direct all compostable items to their appropriate trash receptacle	Throwing compostable/recyclable items into the regular garbage
	Shop locally when new items are needed	Default to ordering items from retailers that require shipping
Decorations & Gifts	Longer-lasting or eco-friendly gifts (e.g., homemade cards, sidewalk chalk, notebooks)	Plastic goodie bags filled with single-use plastic trinkets
	Make decor from reused materials (e.g., painted cardboard banners, paper chains from old worksheets).	Glitter in all decor and crafts (it is a microplastic)
	Hang decorations with painter’s tape	Hang decorations with plastic-based tapes (clear tape, duct tape)
		Balloons