

2023 SUSTAINABILITY RECAP & UPDATE

- Early March: Visioning and brainstorming sessions with students, teachers, and parents. Students wanted to focus on waste reduction & composting.
- March 16: Green Team conducted a waste audit, which showed only 20-25% of waste in the trash should have been in the trash. The rest should have been composted (~50%), recycled, or donated. See video at www.lwhsptsa.org/programs/sustainability
- April 14: We received approval from Public Health to begin food donation program.



WASTE STATIONS IN LUNCHROOM AND KITCHEN

- April 24: We launched waste stations in the lunchroom including recycling, compost, and a food donation station, along with the addition of compost in the kitchen.
- In first four weeks, we donated 252 pieces of whole fruit, 38 boxes of raisins, 18 juices, & 99 cartons of milk to New Bethlehem Programs across the street.



PLASTIC ITEMS HAVE MADE WASTE DISPOSAL MORE COMPLICATED & CONTAMINATED

- Non-compostable boat liners (we've already successfully removed these!)
- Plastic forks and spoons
- Plastic parfait cups
- Plastic mini-cups for condiments, fruit salad, etc.
- Plastic juice cups with foil lids
- Plastic wrapping on sandwiches
- Plastic clamshells for Caesar salads (these also have plastic-wrapped croutons, plastic-wrapped bread, and a mini-plastic container with dressing)





On May 25, Green Team students presented to LWSD Nutrition Services what they wanted:

A major reduction in the use of plastics in the Commons and a transition to durable dishes and serving ware.



WHAT CAN TEACHERS AND STAFF DO TO SUPPORT THESE CHANGES?

- Spread the word! In the fall, we will launch a campaign to educate all students about the new systems. Please show the videos in your classrooms!
- This will take a LOT of student volunteers to make it a success – 6 students per day! Please encourage participation!
 - Easy way to earn volunteer hours.
 - Students who work bussing or washing dishes for 15 minutes will earn a free lunch, too!
- If you have ideas or want to participate in any way, contact Steph Lecovin at sustainability@lwhsptsa.org
- Take our survey by June 2 to help us reduce waste related to Staff Appreciation events.

