Cafeteria Recycling: Educational Resources

Here are a few ways to make your recycling program a big success:

Please show these two short videos to all staff and students:

- **Instructional video for staff and students:**
  These should be sent to staff via email, shown to students in the classroom, cafeteria, etc.
  - Video made by Hennepin County about how to use the recycling stations-
    [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40ijiGCM6us](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40ijiGCM6us) (3 minutes)
  - Video made by local middle school students about milk carton recycling-
    [https://youtu.be/qezWzRz1YF0](https://youtu.be/qezWzRz1YF0) (2 minutes)

Pick 2-3 of these ideas to kick off your program and get everyone excited about recycling in your school:

- **Materials for Teachers:**
  A printable PDF waste sorting [game](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40ijiGCM6us) and [key](https://youtu.be/qezWzRz1YF0).
  Includes:
  - Instructions
  - Cards with pictures of waste items
  - Colored recycling, organics, and trash labels

- **Guest speaker class visit:**
  I can be an in class resource for your teachers. I am available to come into classes and talk about the importance of recycling, the new recycling equipment and what goes in what bin. I can bring in tool kits with waste sort games and let students practice sorting different kinds of waste into the proper bins. (20-50 min, can work with your schedule)
  - [Presentation curriculum](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40ijiGCM6us) and standards it meet

- **Teacher/staff information session:**
  Training teachers and staff, especially those who work in the kitchen and supervise the cafeteria at meal times, is key to a successful program. I can hold a brief training for teachers and staff so they have the knowledge to best support your students and recycling efforts.
• **Start/Collaborate with a “Green Team”**
  Does your school have a green team? If so, I can meet with them to talk about the new equipment and collaborate about good ways for them to engage the rest of school. If your school is interested in starting a green team, I can help organize and get you connected with resources like other schools who already have successful teams.

• **Handout:**
  A fun informational flyer with graphics for staff and to send home with students.

• **Announcement to include in your newsletter or website:**
  Our school is one of 12 Minneapolis public schools selected to be part of a $50,000 School Recycling Grant from Hennepin County! The grant provides funding to K-12 schools to start or improve recycling programs and divert recycling and organic materials from the trash. One new piece of equipment our school is receiving is a recycling station for our cafeteria. It will have receptacles for trash, recycling, and organics. If you are interested in supporting the implementation of our new recycling stations we would love to have you volunteer during lunch periods. We hope you are as excited as us to have these new cost saving, environmentally friendly, and educational resources in our school.

• **Morning Announcement:**
  If your school announces the lunch menu for the day, you can target particular items each day, reminding students to put them in the proper bin. For example-
  - “Remember the clear and orange plastic container for the Bagel yogurt pack goes in the blue recycling bin”,
  - “Don’t forget to use the liquid bucket to fully empty all the milk out of your milk carton before you put it in the blue recycling bin”.

• **Contact me with any questions or concerns. I am here to support you and help your recycling efforts be the best they can be!**

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