



Christa McAuliffe Elementary School

School district: Lake Washington

School location: Sammamish

Began participating in Green Schools Program: September 2019

Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in June 2020

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school achieved a 56 percent recycling rate.
- 80 Associated Student Body (ASB) students served as the Green Team. They learned about the benefits of recycling and tips on how to recycle. They also made monthly waste reduction and recycling announcements using samples from the King County Green Schools Program Recycling Toolkit.
- Waste-free lunch practices were encouraged on the PTSA's sustainability page and promoted through Waste Reduction Wednesday Facebook posts. The messages included tips for recycling at home and updates on what the school is doing to initiate and expand sustainable practices.
- In January 2020, the school began a pilot to collect paper towels from 19 classrooms and from restroom handwashing areas. The school switched from two 96-gallon carts to a two-yard dumpster for collection of compostable materials after including compostable lunch trays in compost bins. The collected compostable materials were transported to a Cedar Grove Composting facility to be composted. Custodians were consulted regularly regarding the implementation of the composting program.
- ASB students created three-dimensional signs and placed them next to recycling bins throughout the school. They also created posters with recycling messages to post in school hallways.
- Recycling bins were labeled and paired with trash bins. Students emptied classroom recycling bins into larger hallway recycling bins daily.



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

- The PTSA sustainability chair, Jayme Jonas, presented information about the Green Schools Program during the December 2019 staff meeting, and shared information about “recycling right” and the school’s pilot composting program.
- The PTSA reduced paper use by 50 percent by using only half-sheets for information sent home to families.
- The school collected 18 pounds of used markers to be recycled through the Crayola Colorcycle program.
- The PTSA hosted a Used Book Rodeo and families donated unwanted books, games, puzzles, DVDs, and video games which students and community members purchased at the Rodeo. Book bucks earned for each item donated could be spent on items students wanted. During this fundraising and reuse event, students donated over 8,500 items. Items not sold were donated to Joy of Reading, a summer literacy program, and other nonprofits in the community.
- The school collected nearly 3,000 pounds of used clothing and other textiles as a fundraiser for the fifth-grade outdoor camp, and the items were reused and valued through Value Village.
- All staff member and parent newsletters continued to be sent electronically during COVID-19 school closures.

Other conservation practices

- The PTSA Art Start program purchased and used only art supplies that conform to ASTM D-4236. No powdered paints, glazes, or clays were purchased or used.
- The school posted No Idle Zone signs on the school campus, and the message was promoted through the e-newsletter and Facebook posts.