



Benjamin Rush Elementary School

School district: Lake Washington

School location: Redmond

Began participating in Green Schools Program:
February 2019

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

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- The school achieved a 52 percent recycling rate.
- The Green Team was advertised through school announcements and on the school's Cheetah Chat, an all-school newsletter, to encourage students to participate.
- Students from third-grade, fourth-grade, and fifth-grade classrooms formed a Green Team. The team met regularly and shared information about the importance of waste reduction and recycling. The team also provided updates on the Green Team's progress and encouraged staff members to support the program.
- A recycling bin with a recycling sign was placed next to each garbage bin in classrooms, offices, cafeteria, and other school areas.
- In February 2020, Green Team students conducted an audit of recycling, compost, and garbage bins, and requested signs from King County Green Schools Program. Students then placed the signs on bins in March 2020.
- In 2019-20, Instructional assistant Gail Kaufman monitored waste bins and shared information with the school community on materials placed in the wrong bins.
- A King County Green Schools Program representative visited the school and advised students on creating three-dimensional waste sorting posters for the



Green Team students display their 3-D posters to improve lunchroom waste sorting



King County Green Schools Program

Success Story

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle • Rethink

cafeteria. The representative worked with students and advisors to identify waste reduction and recycling actions.

- To reduce paper use, signs were posted in the copy room to promote double-sided copying and printing, and all printers were defaulted to double sided copying to reduce paper use.
- Staff members sent weekly newsletters to families via email.
- Over four years ago, the school switched to durable trays and reusable condiment squeeze bottles in the cafeteria.
- In February 2020, a food share table was set up for students to place unwanted, unopened, non-perishable foods for other students to take.
- In March 2020, students reviewed product labels of Ecolab QC 52 E Glass Cleaner and Ecolab QC 91 E Neutral Bathroom Cleaner for physical hazards, health hazards, environmental hazards, and disposal methods in March 2020. Teacher Ryan Overland requested the District Chemical Hygiene Plan from the district director of support services. Head custodians provided information on what chemicals require special handling.
- In 2018-19, the Green Team advisor sent an email to the school community to share the Green Team's accomplishments.
- In 2019-20, the school shared photos of students working on Level One actions and information about their successes with the Lake Washington School District.

Green Team Chemicals at School: Green Team students investigate labels from commonly used cleaning products.