Park Orchard Elementary School

School District: Kent
School Location: Kent

Began participating in the Green Schools Program: November 2016
Level One of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2018
Level Two of the Green Schools Program: Achieved in May 2019

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Level One)

- Park Orchard Elementary School formed a Green Team of eight students led by head custodian Matt Roark.
- Recycling bins with recycling signs were placed next to all garbage bins.
- The school achieved a 51 percent recycling rate and increased its recycling rate to 67 percent in 2018-19.
- Mr. Roark conducted a kitchen food waste audit to learn which materials were routinely thrown out instead of recycled or composted.
- To help reduce food waste, students set up a share table during breakfast for unwanted, unopened packaged foods and drinks from the school lunch program. Other students who wanted more then helped themselves to items on the share table.
- The Green Team shared its successes and efforts through morning announcements and monthly e-newsletters.
- In 2018-19, the school
  - setup buckets for students and staff members to collect used Crayola markers to send to Crayola to be recycled.
  - started recycling in the lunchroom and the Green Team received training on how to properly sort items.
encouraged students to practice waste reduction at home and reminded teachers to continue to educate their students about waste reduction.

- shared waste reduction facts and tips with parents.

- The Green Team shared reminders about how to properly sort items in the lunchroom.

**Energy Conservation (Level Two)**

- The school posted signs on light switches to encourage students and staff members to turn off lights in unoccupied spaces.

- The custodian turned on heating 90 minutes prior to the start of the school day instead of two hours ahead as had been done in the past.

- To conserve electricity, multiple classrooms used natural light throughout the year when available.

- Each classroom had a student monitor to make sure the lights were turned off when they left a room.

- The school used regular announcements to inform and remind students and staff members about ways to conserve energy.