

South Bay schools compete to reduce lunch trash

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Sixteen schools in Los Angeles County - all but three located in the South Bay - will participate in a months-long competition to reduce the trash they produce at lunchtime.

Sponsored by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and created by the environmental nonprofit group Grades of Green, the competition teaches kids how to reduce trash by switching to reusable lunch containers and water bottles with cloth napkins. Those who buy lunch will learn to sort waste into recycling and composting bins.

Schools that participated in last year's competition reduced their trash by 70 percent on average and diverted more than 10,000 bags of refuse from landfills.

The competition gets under way Wednesday, when representatives from each school will attend a training session and tour of the Sanitation Districts' Puente Hills Landfill and Materials Recovery Facility.

The winning school will receive a \$1,000 science grant. The second- and third-place schools will receive \$750 and \$500, respectively.

The competing South Bay schools are: Arnold Elementary, Riviera Elementary, Seaside Elementary, Victor Elementary and Walteria Elementary in Torrance; Beryl Heights Elementary, Birney Elementary and Washington Elementary in Redondo Beach; Lunada Bay Elementary in Palos Verdes Estates; California Academy of Math and Science in Carson; Da Vinci Schools in Hawthorne; Chapman Elementary in Gardena; and Vistamar School in El Segundo.

More information: www.gradesofgreen.org