

# Riptide Reader

## **Grades of Green**

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By Sophia Arnao

In January, MBMS was introduced to Grades of Green, a program that revolutionizes the way students dispose of waste during lunch.

Before this program, students threw away 30 bags of trash each day at lunchtime. After the first day of the new system, only 13 of those bags were sent to the landfill.

Besides standard trash cans, the Grades of Green program incorporates bins for clean containers, bottles, cans, and liquids.

The gray mesh container, labeled "landfill," is used to throw away wrappers, plastic bags, juice boxes, and food. The blue mesh container, for recycle, is designated for milk cartons, clean yogurt or applesauce containers, sporks, straws, and other recyclables. The plastic recycle can is for empty bottles and cans that can be turned in at a recycling center. The yellow bin is designated for liquids only and can be used to dispose of milk and juice.

Although the number of trash bags used at lunch has been cut in half, ASB coordinator Ms. Schreiner believes that students "could do much, much better" following these rules. Students often throw milk cartons into the liquids container or throw food into the recycle bin.

She believes the main reason for this is that the program lacks volunteers. In the future, she hopes parents and students will get involved in this program and start helping out their school and their planet.