

Franklin Elementary School



Franklin Elementary School is part of the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District and serves approximately 800 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th. In order to reduce lunchtime waste, Franklin set up two sorting stations in their lunch area consisting of color coded bins with signage to separate leftover liquids, recyclables, landfill trash, and stacked trays to be recycled. Franklin also provided their cafeteria with a bin for leftover fruit and vegetable waste to be composted on campus. With the help of posters and fliers displayed near the lunch area, students are encouraged to sort properly and pack trash free lunches. Dedicated parent volunteers help students sort

waste properly and hand out raffle tickets to students who are actively participating in zero waste efforts at lunch. **At the start of their Trash Free Lunch Challenge program, the campus produced 22 bags of trash each day at lunch. As of April 2014, Franklin Elementary has reduced their waste to only 2 bags of trash at lunchtime daily.**

In addition to their Trash Free Lunch program, Franklin worked to further green their school by:

- Creating and implementing a brand new on site composting program maintained by students from the CREST afterschool program;
- Conducting a community e-waste drive;
- Hosting a recycling week on campus with workshops on vermiculture (composting with worms) and making art with reused items;
- Implementing a walk/bike to school program and a no idling policy in front of the school;
- Organizing a field trip to a recycling center;
- Creating a [video](#) of their trash free program during lunchtime.

For all of their efforts to reduce their waste, inspire and empower students, and green their school community, Franklin has been awarded with this year's Trash Free Lunch Challenge "Above and Beyond Award". They were also named 4th place elementary school and awarded a \$500 science grant.

McKinley Elementary School



McKinley Elementary School is part of the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District and serves approximately 514 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th. In order to reduce lunchtime waste McKinley set up two sorting stations in the cafeteria and one outside at the covered tables. The sorting stations consist of color coded containers with signage to separate leftover liquids, recyclables, leftover fruits and vegetables to be composted on site, landfill trash, and trays to be recycled. A bin is also given to the cafeteria to collect leftover fruit and vegetables to be composted. Students are

incentivized to sort their waste properly with the help of student Green Team members monitoring the sorting stations daily and with student Green Team members providing school wide announcements as needed. Also, their strong compost program diverts over 100 pounds of food waste per week into their compost pile that is mixed by students then decomposed by nature to make a rich nutritious supplement

for their garden. . **At the start of their Trash Free Lunch Program, McKinley was producing 20 bags of trash each day at lunch. Currently, their students are down to 3 bags of lunchtime landfill waste daily.**

McKinley established a strong student Green Team who worked together with the adult leaders and the rest of the campus to educate and inspire the community in the following ways:

- Conducting class to class “walking assemblies” to re-educate students throughout the year;
- Conducting weekly announcements and reminders via the school PA system;
- Creating a video on waste reduction featuring students which was shown at the TFLC assembly and the talent show;
- Distributing Grades of Green educational flyers to parents;
- Conducting composting lessons in the garden for students;
- Monitoring and managing the on-site compost system daily;
- Educating incoming parents about zero waste efforts and programs.

McKinley Elementary embraced the Trash Free Lunch Program throughout all aspects of their school community and earned a spot as an elementary school finalist in this year’s Challenge and was awarded a \$750 science grant.

Grant Elementary School



Grant Elementary School is part of the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District and serves approximately 646 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th. In order to reduce lunchtime waste, Grant set up three sorting stations throughout the campus consisting of a bin for each of the following materials: recyclables, compostable items such as food waste and soiled paper (collected and composted off site by Crown Disposal), and landfill waste. Students painted sorting system bins and attached laminated signs displaying photos of the types of materials that go in each bin. The school made frequent announcements to encourage students to sort their waste properly and to bring only reusable (trash free)

containers to school. The principal frequently handed out raffle prizes to students who were actively participating in the efforts towards zero waste. **At the start of their Trash Free Lunch Program, Grant was producing 12 bags of trash each day at lunch. Currently, their students are down to only 3 bags of lunchtime landfill waste daily.**

Grant created a student Green Team consisting of the 5th Grade Girl Scout Troop who along with the adult program leader have worked on various projects to help the school meet its zero waste goals. The Green Team has inspired and educated their community in the following ways:

- Hosting a Grades of Green Trash Free Lunch Challenge Assembly;
- Creating and putting on their own assembly on waste reduction;
- Distributing Grades of Green flyers and “waste free” flyers to families via email in English and Spanish;
- Encouraging Trash Free Tuesday as the day to bring reusable packaging only to school;
- Hosting a Zero Waste school festival for the whole community by adding sorting stations, making announcements and working with vendors to use only compostable packaging;
- Providing reusable containers to low income families.

For their efforts in reaching out beyond their school to educate their community about the importance of waste reduction, Grant Elementary was the recipient of this year's Trash Free Lunch Challenge "Best Zero Waste Events Award".

Linwood Howe Elementary School



Linwood Howe Elementary School is part of the Culver City Unified School District and serves approximately 525 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th. In order to reduce their lunchtime waste, Linwood Howe set up two sorting stations in the cafeteria consisting of bins to separate recyclables, compostable food, paper and trays (to be composted off-site by Culver City), and landfill trash. Each sorting system bin features a colorful sign created by the Culver City Sustainability Department. Students are reminded to sort their waste and pack trash free lunches by: Green Leader students monitoring lunchtime sorting; instructional signs and posters displayed in the lunch area; and classroom assemblies given by parent volunteers. **At the start of the Trash Free Lunch Program, Linwood Howe was producing 7 bags of trash at lunchtime; currently the school is down to producing only 3 bags of trash at lunch daily.**

Linwood Howe elected two student Green Leaders from each class along with two Green Seat student council members who worked with parent volunteers to inspire and empower their community in the following ways.

- Administering weekly surveys to students to remind them to make "green choices";
- Holding contests among classes for the most "green choices";
- Working with their City and district to compost all food waste;
- Working with their district to replace Styrofoam trays with compostable paper trays;
- Making morning announcements that remind students to sort their waste;
- Selling reusable water bottles at school events;
- Distributing Grades of Green and Culver City flyers to families via email.

Linwood Howe Elementary worked closely with their district and city to create real environmental change in their school and community. **By collaborating with their district to pilot food composting, eliminating the Styrofoam trays from the cafeteria, and educating students, Linwood Howe has won this year's Trash Free Lunch Challenge "District Leadership Award".**

Oakmont Elementary School



Oakmont Elementary School is part of the Claremont Unified School District and serves approximately 290 students in grades Kindergarten through 6th. In order to reduce their lunchtime waste Oakmont set up a lunch area sorting system consisting of labeled and color coded bins to separate leftover liquids, bottle and cans for redemption, mixed recyclables, fruits and vegetables to compost on site, teracycle pouches to upcycle, and landfill trash. Students were encouraged to sort their waste and pack trash free lunches by having students act as sorting station monitors, and offering raffle prizes and hand stamps for students who actively participate in waste free efforts. **At the start of the Trash Free Lunch Program, Oakmont was**

producing 15 bags of trash at lunchtime; currently the school is down to producing only 1 bag of trash at lunch daily.

Oakmont created a student Green Team consisting of 4th-6th grade student council members. These students worked together with adult staff members to further green their school by:

- Managing and monitoring the lunchtime sorting system on a daily basis;
- Making morning announcements with Earth Tips and ideas for being green;
- Holding a school wide assembly to share the benefits of sorting waste;
- Sending home flyers and newsletter to families regarding how they can support green efforts at home;
- Managing the on-site composting system;
- Sharing their Trash Free program with the community at a city council meeting.

The Oakmont community fully embraced the Trash Free Lunch Challenge Program, sharing the benefits of using reusable containers with their families and increasing the percentage of students bring waste free lunches to school by 95%. **Oakmont Elementary has won this year's Trash Free Lunch Challenge Award for "Most Students Packing Trash Free Lunches".**

Vista Del Valle Elementary School



Vista Del Valle Elementary school is part of the Claremont Unified School District and serves approximately 300 students in grades Kindergarten through 6th. In order to reduce lunchtime waste, Vista Del Valle set up a sorting station in the lunch area consisting of color coded bins to separate leftover liquids, recyclables, fruit and vegetables to compost, untouched fruit to be washed and placed in the teacher's lounge, stacked trays to recycle, and landfill trash. Sorting and packing trash free lunches is encouraged by student green team members who monitor the sorting station at lunch, give raffle prizes for

students who pack trash free lunches and hold contests among the students. **At the start of their Trash Free Lunch Challenge Program, Vista Del Valle was producing 10 bags of trash each day at lunch, currently the campus is down to 1 bag of lunchtime trash daily.**

Vista Del Valle assembled a Green Team consisting of students in grades 2- 6 who submitted essays on why they wanted to be a part of the team. This dedicated group of kids has worked together with adult staff members to inspire and empower their school and community to be green in the following ways:

- Creating and maintaining an onsite composting program;
- Monitoring the lunchtime sorting station daily, both at nutrition and at lunchtime;
- Creating a white board in the lunch area that tracks lunchtime waste;
- Contracting with Millenia recycling to capture and divert more recyclables at school and in the community and also raise money for the school;
- Creating a video on waste reduction featuring students. This [video](#) has been shared with the school and community;
- Sharing their program and video with the mayor of Claremont;
- Writing a letter to First Lady Michelle Obama sharing their program and with a link to their video.

Vista Del Valle truly inspired and empowered their students and entire school community to be aware of waste and care for their environment. **For all of their programs and waste free efforts, Vista Del Valle has won a \$1,000 science grant and 1st place in the elementary school category of this year's Trash Free Lunch Challenge.**

Chaparral Elementary School



Chaparral Elementary School is part of the Claremont Unified School District and serves approximately 700 students in grades Kindergarten through 6th. In order to reduce lunchtime waste Chaparral set up three lunch area sorting systems consisting of labeled bins to separate leftover liquids, recyclables, compostable fruit and vegetables, stacked trays to recycle, and landfill trash. Students are encouraged to sort their waste by ongoing student discussions and Green Team leadership modeling accurate sorting. **At the start of their Trash Free Lunch Challenge Program, Chaparral was producing 12 bags of trash each day at lunch; currently the campus is down to 3 bags of lunchtime trash daily.**

Chaparral created a student green team consisting of students from the existing "Keep Our Playground Clean" group and additional motivated students. This Green Team worked together with parent volunteers and adult staff members to further green their school by:

- Monitoring sorting stations at lunch;
- Picking up litter around their campus;
- Meeting monthly to come up with new ideas to promote the Trash Free Lunch program;
- Conducting a Go Green Lunchbox sale to promote trash free lunches in the community;
- Planning a new composting system that will be able to compost fruit and vegetables on site.

Chaparral focused on reducing waste by sorting, packing trash free lunches and taking the extra step to eliminate litter on their campus and has won this year's Trash Free Lunch Challenge award for "Best Litter Reduction Program".

Foster Road Elementary School



Foster Road Elementary School is part of the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District and serves approximately 430 students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 5th. In order to reduce their waste at lunch, Foster Road set up a sorting station in their lunch area consisting of labeled bins to separate leftover liquids, milk cartons to be recycled, stacked trays to be recycled, all other recyclables and landfill trash. Students are encouraged to sort and pack trash free with the assistance of adult sorting monitors, by viewing instructional posters throughout the school, and watching teachers and staff who lead by example, **At the start of their Trash Free Lunch Challenge Program, Foster Road was producing 18**

bags of trash each day at lunch, currently the campus is down to 3 bags of lunchtime trash daily.

Foster Road created a Green Team consisting of four staff members, one parent and five 4th and 5th grade students. This team has worked together to green their school and inspire their students in the following ways:

- Conducting classroom competitions for recycling;
- Celebrating throughout the year as the trash bag count goes lower and lower;
- Sorting out redeemable recyclables to raise money for the school;
- Making posters to promote their Trash Free Lunch program on campus;
- Holding “recycle days” on campus where families are encouraged to bring in recyclables from home.

Foster Road worked hard to involve the whole school in their waste reduction efforts as well as bringing the community into their zero waste efforts, and for this reason they have won this year’s Trash Free Lunch Challenge Award for “Most Creative Waste Reduction Program”.

Lowell Elementary School



Lowell Elementary School is part of the Long Beach Unified School District and serves approximately 766 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th. In order to reduce their lunchtime waste, Lowell set up three sorting stations with signage in their outside lunch area and cafeteria. Each sorting station consists of bins to separate left over liquids, recyclables, fruit and vegetables to be composted on site, stacked trays for recycling and landfill trash. Students are encouraged to sort their waste and pack trash free lunches by Green Team parents who monitor sorting stations daily, hand stamps, and raffle prizes for students who are caught “green handed” or actively supporting zero waste efforts. **At the start of their Trash Free Lunch Challenge Program, Lowell was producing 10 bags of trash each day at lunch; currently the campus is down to 3 bags of lunchtime trash daily.**

Lowell created a Green Team consisting of parent volunteers, staff, and all 5th grade students whose classes take turns performing the Green Team tasks such as:

- Monitoring sorting stations at lunchtime;
- Managing the composting of fruits and vegetables daily;
- Helping special education students make posters to remind students to make waste free choices;
- Creating [video](#) announcements;
- Distributing hand stamps and stickers to students who sort properly;
- Performing waste audits to educate students about the waste generated on their campus;
- Creating a Power Point presentation about their waste audit results;
- Distributing Grades of Green flyers and other resources to families via email.

Lowell embraced the Trash Free Lunch Program and made it their own by including a large number of students and staff in their program and truly making it an important part of their school community. **For all of their efforts, Lowell Elementary earned a spot as an elementary school finalist in this year’s Challenge and awarded a \$750 science grant.**

Rice Elementary School



Rice Elementary School is part of the Garvey School District in Rosemead and serves approximately 550 students in grades Kindergarten through 6th. In order to reduce their waste at lunch, Rice set up a sorting system in the cafeteria that includes labeled bins to sort leftover liquids, recyclables, fruits and vegetables to compost on site, landfill trash, and stacked trays for recycling. Students are encouraged to sort their waste, pack trash free and reduce food waste by: students monitoring the sorting station daily, hand stamps given out in the sorting area and raffle prizes for students who are participating in zero waste efforts. **At the**

start of the Trash Free Lunch Program, Rice was producing 15 bags of trash at lunchtime; currently the school is down to producing only 5 bags of trash at lunch daily.

Rice created a green team consisting of students from Room 12 and other students who were willing to volunteer their time during the day and after school to lead the Trash Free Lunch Program. These students worked together with staff leaders to green their school and inspire other students by:

- Creating video games out of recycled cardboard and using them to raise money and awareness;
- Hosting a city workshop on verimculture;
- Starting and maintaining both bin composting and worm composting on campus;
- Presenting their program at the Ocean Institute Kids' Conference;
- Maintaining and monitoring the lunchtime sorting system daily;
- Creating the "Clean Plate" program that rewards students for not wasting food.

Rice Elementary expanded their Trash Free Lunch Program beyond their school by presenting at a conference and reaching out to partner with their city and waste hauler. For their accomplishments, Rice has won this year's Trash Free Lunch Challenge "Global Awareness Award".

St. John Fisher



Saint John Fisher is part of Los Angeles Archdiocese Catholic School System and located in Palos Verdes Estates. It serves approximately 200 students in grades Kindergarten through 8th. In order to reduce their lunchtime waste, St. John Fisher set up a sorting system in their lunch area consisting of bins to sort leftover liquids, water bottles, trays, other recyclables, and landfill trash. Students are encouraged to sort their waste properly and pack trash free lunches by: encouragement and guidance from student monitors at the sorting station and receiving hand stamps for correct sorting and raffle prizes.

St. John Fisher created a Green Team consisting of staff members, student council members, and other interested students. These adults and students have worked together to make their school a greener place by:

- Maintaining and monitoring the sorting station;
- Giving morning announcements to remind students to make green choices;
- Making posters and announcements to promote their trash free program;
- Creating a powerpoint about the trash free program to educate the whole school;
- Creating a permanent "ecology position" on student council;

St John Fisher made student education a core part of their waste reduction program through assemblies, announcements, and ongoing discussions and has won this year's Trash Free Lunch Challenge Program award for "Best Educational Presentation".

Arlington Elementary School



Arlington Elementary School is located in the Torrance Unified School District and serves approximately 600 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th. In order to reduce their waste at lunch, Arlington created a lunch time sorting system consisting of color coded bins with signage to separate leftover liquids, fruit and vegetables for composting on site, milk cartons and trays for recycling, all other recyclables, and landfill trash. Students are encouraged to properly sort their trash, not waste food and pack trash free lunches by the student sorting monitors in the lunch area and raffle prizes for students who actively participating in zero waste efforts. **At the start of their Trash Free Lunch**

Challenge Program, Arlington was producing 6 bags of trash each day at lunch; currently the campus is down to 2 bags of lunchtime trash daily.

Arlington created a student green team consisting of 4th grade students who work with staff and parent volunteers to green their school by:

- Reaching out to the city to create and maintain an on-site compost program for fruits and vegetables;
- Hosting contests between classrooms to see who can bring the most reusable items;
- Promoting the trash free program in monthly newsletters;
- Training 3rd grade students to take over as Green Team leaders next year.

Arlington's staff fully supported the lunchtime sorting system and worked hard to make sure all students participated in the program. Arlington won this year's Trash Free Lunch Challenge award for "Most Involved Lunchtime Staff".

Parras Middle School



Parras Middle School is part of the Redondo Beach Unified School District and serves approximately 1,017 students in grades 6th-8th. In order to reduce their lunchtime waste, Parras set up two sorting stations in the lunch area consisting of bins with signage to separate food and paper waste to compost off site, produce waste to compost on site, bottles and cans for redemption, all other recyclables, leftover water to water plants, and landfill trash. Students are encouraged to sort their waste and pack trash free by student and adult monitors in the sorting area, the development and marketing of "Waste Free

Wednesdays", morning announcements, and raffle prizes for students who are trash free. **At the start of**

their Trash Free Lunch Challenge Program, Parras was producing 30 bags of trash each day at lunch; currently the campus is down to 3 bags of lunchtime trash daily.

Parras Middle School created a student green team consisting of students from the existing Kompost Kids group, ASB students, and interested 6th grade students. This group worked together with staff member Clark Woods to green their school in the following ways:

- Setting up, maintaining, and monitoring the lunchtime sorting system daily;
- Promoting the Trash Free Lunch program with flyers, posters, and announcements;
- Creating and promoting “Waste Free Wednesdays” as a day to be totally waste free;
- Creating a [video](#) made by and featuring students to educate students and the community about waste reduction;
- Involving the PE program in litter reduction by having “trash bandits” run extra laps;
- Setting up and maintaining on site composting for leftover fruits and vegetables at lunch.

Parras Middle School created a comprehensive waste reduction program that is heavily led by students and has changed the habits of the entire campus community. **For their excellence in all aspects of the Trash Free Lunch Challenge, Parras has won a \$1,000 science grant and 1st place in the middle school category of this year’s Trash Free Lunch Challenge.**

Franklin Classical Middle School



Franklin Classical Middle School is part of the Long Beach Unified School and serves approximately 1,200 students in grades 6th through 8th. In order to reduce their waste at lunch, Franklin began by focusing on the 6th grade student population and set up a sorting station for their lunch waste consisting of labeled bins to separate unopened food to be collected by “Food Finders”, leftover liquids, fruits and vegetables for onsite composting, recyclables, stacked trays to recycle, and landfill trash. The 6th grade students were encouraged to properly sort their waste by student and adult volunteers who monitor the sorting station daily and reminder worksheets given to the students. **At the start of their Trash**

Free Lunch Challenge Program, Franklin Classical’s 6th graders were producing 10 bags of trash each day; currently the 6th graders are down to 3 bags of lunchtime trash daily.

Franklin Classical created a Green Team consisting of interested 6th-8th grade students who were willing to volunteer their time to make a difference. These students worked together with staff and parent volunteers to inspire and empower their community in the following ways:

- Managing and monitoring the sorting system for the 6th grade lunch period;
- Managing the compost system and helping in the school garden;
- Managing classroom and campus recycling;
- Making announcements to educate the school about how much waste they are diverting;
- Sharing their program with the community at the Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair;
- Collecting bottles and cans throughout the school for redemption.

Franklin Classical Middle School is a Title 1 school and does not have many extra resources to devote to developing their Trash Free Lunch Program. **In spite of their obstacles, they created a successful waste reduction program that has been embraced by both the campus and the broader school**

community. For all of their great efforts and successes this year, Franklin Classical has won this year's Trash Free Lunch Challenge awards for "Against All Odds" and "Best Bottles and Cans Collection Program".

Jane Adams Middle School



Jane Adams Middle School is part of the Lawndale Elementary School District and serves approximately 905 students in Grades 6th-8th. In order to reduce their lunch time waste, Jane Adams set up four lunchtime sorting systems in their eating areas consisting of color coded bins to separate compostable produce waste, recyclables, stacked trays to recycle, and landfill trash. Students are encouraged to sort their waste by: noon aides and Green Team members managing the sorting system and by providing monthly raffle prizes for students who sort their waste correctly.

At the start of their Trash Free Lunch Challenge Program, Jane Adams was

producing 40 bags of trash each day at lunch; currently the campus is down to 5 bags of lunchtime trash daily.

Jane Adams created a student Green Team consisting of 16 core student volunteers with support from interested 6th grade students. These students worked with staff and parent volunteers to green their school in the following ways:

- Managing and monitoring the lunch area sorting systems;
- Creating a Common Core Tree of knowledge project consisting of cross curriculum "pods" created by students from all recycled materials;
- Writing letters to various companies encouraging them to use more sustainable packaging and containers;
- Educating the student body on campus waste diversion rates;
- Posting "Green Facts" around campus to continue to educate the school community about the importance of environmental protection.

Jane Adams Middle School created a successful waste reduction program by integrating the culture of environmental stewardship into all aspects of campus life. **In recognition of their successful Trash Free Lunch Program and many environmental endeavors, Jane Adams was voted a top three middle school finalist in this year's Challenge and awarded a \$750 science grant.**

Magruder Middle School



Magruder Middle School is part of the Torrance Unified School District and serves approximately 600 students in grades 6th through 8th. In order to reduce their lunchtime waste, Magruder set up a sorting station in their outside lunch area consisting of bins with signage to separate leftover liquid waste, leftover produce waste for composting, bottle and cans for redemption, all other recyclables, all other trash for the landfill, stacked trays to

recycle, and untouched/unopened food to share. Students are encouraged to use the sorting system and pack trash free lunches by receiving punch cards for students with trash free lunches, which can be redeemed for prizes. Green Team students also monitor the sorting station regularly. **At the start of their Trash Free Lunch Challenge Program, Magruder Middle School was producing 19 bags of trash each day at lunch; currently the campus is down to 3 bags of lunchtime trash daily.**

Magruder created a student Green Team consisting of students from the existing Garden Guru club who work closely with key staff members and parent volunteers to help inspire and empower their school community to “go green” by:

- Creating and monitoring a lunchtime sorting system along with colorful signage;
- Setting up and maintaining onsite composting for lunchtime produce waste;
- Creating and manning a booth at the school sponsored community fair to teach the broader North Torrance community about the school’s green programs such as composting and lunchtime sorting;
- Creating a [video](#) featuring students to educate the school about being waste free;
- Holding a Grades of Green parent night for incoming families to teach them about the school’s green programs and gain extra support for the upcoming school year.

Magruder Middle School combined the efforts of dedicated adults and inspired students to create a successful waste sorting system that is both effective and easy to use. **By implementing this system, Magruder has reduced their lunchtime waste by 84% and won this year’s Trash Free Lunch Challenge “Best Sorting System Award”.**

Jefferson Leadership Academy



Jefferson Leadership Academy is part of the Long Beach Unified District and serves approximately 900 students in grades 6th through 8th. In order to reduce their waste at lunchtime, Jefferson set up a sorting system in their lunch area consisting of bins to separate liquid waste, leftover produce waste, recycling, stacked trays to recycle, landfill trash, and unopened food to be donated to local nonprofit organization, Food Finders. Students are encouraged to sort their waste at lunch by the Go Green Club students and science teacher, Vanessa VanDyke.

Jefferson created a Go Green Club consisting of interested students who choose to volunteer their time to help work on environmental programs. These students worked together with a dedicated teacher to bring green changes to their school by:

- Creating and managing a lunch area sorting system;
- Setting up a partnership with Food Finders to donate uneaten food;
- Revitalizing an unused portion of the campus for on-site composting;
- Raising money for the school by setting up a redemption program for bottles and cans.

Jefferson Leadership Academy is a Title 1 school with limited resources and few parents able to volunteer. Despite obstacles, the school was able to successfully reduce their waste and is in the process of continuing to green their school by efforts in composting, recycling, gardening with native plants and donating leftover food. Jefferson has inspired and empowered their students to care for the environment and has started an environmental legacy at that will continue for years to come.

David Starr Jordan Middle School



David Starr Jordan Middle School is part of the Burbank Unified School District and serves approximately 1,167 students in grades 6th through 8th. In order to reduce the waste generated at lunchtime, Jordan created three lunch area sorting systems throughout the campus consisting of color coded bins with signage and examples to allow students to separate leftover liquids, leftover produce waste for onsite composting, bottles and cans, all other recyclables, landfill trash, and stacked trays for recycling. Students are encouraged to sort their waste and pack trash free lunches with “Green Bucks” raffle

tickets that are given to students who are actively participating in waste free efforts. Green Buck raffle prizes are given monthly. **At the start of their Trash Free Lunch Challenge Program, Jordan Middle School was producing 30 bags of trash each day at lunch; currently the campus is down to 15 bags of lunchtime trash daily.**

Jordan created a student green team consisting of combined existing service and environmental clubs on campus. Green Team students worked closely with a select group of dedicated staff members to inspire their students and green their school by:

- Creating and managing lunchtime sorting stations;
- Promoting the waste free program on campus with posters, announcements, and taped segments on the school broadcast “Cougar Vision”;
- Holding a fundraiser selling reusable containers with proceeds going to sustaining the Trash Free Lunch program;
- Holding an Trash Free Lunch Challenge Art contest which resulted in the winning poster being displayed around campus;
- Creating and managing an onsite composting program;
- Conducting “walking assemblies” to re-educate students on campus waste reduction programs.

David Starr Jordan Middle School inspired and empowered their school community by reducing waste, educating students, and building a sustainable program that will last for years to come and earned a spot as one of the top three middle school finalists in this year’s Challenge and awarded a \$750 science grant.

Aveson Global Leadership Academy



Aveson Global Leadership Academy is located in Altadena, California and is part of the Pasadena Unified School District. The school serves approximately 380 students in grades 6th through 12th. In order to reduce their waste at lunch and on campus, Aveson paired recycle cans with their trash cans in the lunch area throughout the campus and also set up blue carts to collect bottles and cans for redemption. Classrooms were also

provided with a bottles and cans collection bin, as well as a recycling bin for all paper products.

Aveson created a student green team headed by Global Leadership Advisor Tom Hyatt. The students and staff member worked together throughout the year to green their school by:

- Managing the recycling of paper, milk cartons and bottles and cans on campus;
- Educating the students on reducing single use items and recycling more;
- Introducing a recycling program at Aveson Elementary School;
- Collecting and cleaning milk cartons to make an recycled art project;
- Setting up a contest for students to bring redeemable recyclables to school.

As a new school, Aveson has overcome many obstacles to begin a program to reduce waste. The green team leaders and key staff members are committed to creating a comprehensive waste reduction plan for their school and have plans in place to keep furthering their mission to green their school in the coming years.

Leuzinger High School



Leuzinger High School is located in Lawndale and is part of the Centinela Valley Union High School District. The campus serves approximately 1,700 students in grades 9th through 12th. In order to reduce their waste on campus, Leuzinger established recycling throughout the campus by pairing each trash can with a recycle can to give students the choice to recycle. Students are encouraged to recycle with signage explaining what is recyclable and there are plans for reminders and announcements regarding the new program.

Leuzinger High School created a student Green Team made up of nine upper class student volunteers who belong to the school's Environmental Careers Academy. These students worked with staff members to inspire and empower their peers to recycle on campus by:

- Swapping half of their trash cans with a neighboring high school to create color coded trash/recycle stations (blue cans for recyclables, grey for trash);
- Working with the art students to paint the recycle symbol on all recycle bins;
- Conducting a waste audit in which they learned that 66% of all of their waste is recyclable;
- Conducting walking assemblies in the classrooms to educate their peers about recycling on campus.

Leuzinger High School has worked hard this year to take the first step towards a more sustainable school by giving students a choice to recycle on campus. They have dedicated students and staff members who are committed to improving the waste reduction program at the school through further education, incorporating more student involvement and introducing a composting program. Leuzinger High School is on its way to becoming a leader in high school environmental sustainability.