**Student Composting Education Script**

**Step 1: Describe the Problem**

* “Food waste is a huge problem. Did you know that currently over 60 billion pounds of mineral rich food go to landfills each year in the U.S. alone and U.S. schools waste 530,000 tons of food each year? Most of this food ends up in a landfill.”
* “When food waste rots in a landfill it releases greenhouse gasses like methane that trap the sun’s heat in our atmosphere and contribute to global warming. That is why it’s important to waste as little food as possible!”

**Step 2: Provide a Solution**

* “But when we do have food waste there is something we can do to minimize its impact on the planet. By composting food waste instead of sending it to a landfill we can reduce greenhouse gasses and make a nutrient rich product that can be used to regenerate the soil.”

**Step 3: Describe the Solution**

* “Composting happens when food waste is combined with carbon rich materials like dried leaves, sawdust, shredded paper, and moisture and heat from the sun.”
* “Decomposers and microorganisms will work to quickly break down these materials and transform it into humus, also known as compost. When added to gardens and landscaping, humus adds nutrients to the soil, helps retain water and adds to the overall health of the soil.”

**Step 4: Take Action!**

* “Starting \_\_\_\_\_\_*\_\_\_ \_\_ (date)* our school is going to start composting our lunchtime food waste and here’s how you can help!”
* **For Onsite Campus Composting:**
  + “After eating your lunch, separate and add any leftover produce scraps you have to the food waste bucket that will be placed \_\_\_\_\_\_*\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ (campus location)* Items that can be added to our campus compost are things like banana and orange peels, strawberry tops and any fruit or vegetable leftover from your lunch. Items that cannot be added to be composted are any type of meat, bread, grains, sugary items, or fats.”
  + “After lunch the food scraps will be taken to our composter \_\_\_\_\_\_*\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ (campus location)* to be composted and transformed into humus.”

* **For Offsite/Municipal Composting:**
  + “After eating your lunch, separate and add any leftover food waste to the labeled food waste carts that will be located \_\_\_\_\_\_*\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ (campus location)*. All leftover food waste can be added to this cart including fruits and vegetables, meat, breads, grains, sugary items, and fats.”
  + “Our waste hauler will pick these food waste carts up and take the food to a facility to be composted and turned into a nutrient rich humus that will be used to regenerate soil and fertilize gardens.”