



BUSD Striving for Zero Waste

Lunchtime Waste Monitors

Purpose: To create a system for students to monitor and help fellow students sort waste properly. The goal is to share this responsibility across grades. Use these tips to help set up a system and schedule for student lunch monitors at your school.

- Make sure your cafeteria has a multi-sort waste station with bins for Compost, Recycling, and Landfill next to each other and properly labeled with signs.

There are different ways to assign students as lunchtime monitors:

- Two students from one class could be assigned to monitor for their class or grade at lunchtime for one day, then two other kids from the same class the next day. Once you've cycled through that class, then it would go to the next class of that same grade, then after that, to a different grade.
- Lunchtime staff could also assign students to be monitors on the spot, each day.
- Students can apply to be lunchtime monitors. They can be trained and signed for specific days each week.
- Teachers can give "extra credit" or "volunteer hours" or some other reward that fits with recognition for "good deeds" at their school. A recognition award at the end of the year may also be suitable.
- Monitors should be from second grade up. (K and 1st may be too young, use your judgment).

Other tips:

- One lunchtime staff person or a parent volunteer should support the monitors and provide guidance to them.
- Add some excitement for student monitors by providing a special vest or t-shirt to recognize lunch monitors. You can purchase orange "safety vests" and decorate them with the class with permanent markers, or create a reuse project where students bring in decorating supplies and old t-shirts (maybe L or XL to fit over regular school clothes). You can use Green Team funds or ask your PTA for funds if you need them.
- Student monitors should be trained on proper sorting. You can use the video or a lesson. Students can practice role-playing and what they will say to other students and how they will demonstrate proper sorting. Training can occur during class or at lunchtime. Provide students with some pointers on how to communicate with other students.