

## **It's almost lunch time!**

Our students separate cafeteria waste into 3 different waste streams: landfill trash, commingled recyclables, and compost. At lunch today, you will see the three different containers for each waste stream. A large round container for trash, a blue square container for recyclable material, and the large blue SMART cart for compostable material. Each will be marked with the appropriate sign.

Before dismissing your students at the end of the lunch period, please ask your students to collect any landfill trash items at the table and place it in the Landfill Trash buckets. Separating landfill trash at the table allows students to work together on categorizing waste items, expedites the dismissal process, and reduces contamination in both recycling and compost. Classes effectively utilizing these Landfill Trash buckets consistently experience easier dismissals. It is also helpful to review the waste items with the students before you leave for lunch and before dismissal.

The first class in the cafeteria should pick up a Landfill Trash bucket from the designated location in the cafeteria. The last class out of the cafeteria should put the bucket in the dish window to be cleaned. Assign a student helper to collect the bucket, dump it in the landfill trash container at the waste station and return it to the table.

Students should line up at the waste station in an orderly fashion. If any landfill trash items remain, they can be deposited into the first landfill trash container. Any liquid remaining in an aluminum can or a plastic bottle should be dumped into the compost cart and the clean recyclable should be deposited in the square blue recycling container. Everything remaining on the student trays should be compostable, even the milk and milk carton, and students can then dump everything into the compost cart. Students should then approach the dish window and stack their trays. Stack trays like a puzzle!

Trash items include plastic cutlery, chip bags, sandwich/hot dog wrappers, Styrofoam, condiment packets, salad dressing cups, cellophane, aluminum foil, and juice pouches (any juice pouch with a straw should be landfilled).

Recyclable items include clean aluminum cans and plastic bottles.

Compostable items include all leftover food, drinking liquids, waxy cardboard milk and juice cartons, napkins, and cardboard food boats.

For a complete list of items, please refer to the "Cafeteria Waste Items List" but if you find something that you are unsure of just ask! If you don't know what the item is remember, "when in doubt, throw it out."

Enjoy your lunch!