



Parent Involvement in School Lunchroom Program

Parent volunteers can be a very useful resource in a school lunchroom program and can help the school fulfill its goal of reducing the amount of waste generated each day.

What schools are doing

Bayview Elementary School - Waconia

Bayview Elementary School uses “Cafeteria Coaches” (staff and parent volunteers) during all meals to mentor students on appropriate food consumption practices, including selection of appropriate portion sizes, encouraging students to eat all they select, and assisting with disposal procedures as needed.

Carondelet Catholic School - Minneapolis

Carondelet Catholic School has a parent recycling coordinator who works with the Trash Slasher Committee. The Trash Slashers are three teachers from each campus committed to reducing waste at the school. The parent recycling coordinator started with a walk-through of both campuses with a custodian, identifying areas where organics were generated. The team determined where to set up ‘waste stations’ in the lunchrooms and staff rooms, with smaller organics bins in each classroom.

Clara Barton Open School - Minneapolis

Clara Barton Open School uses parents to help supervise their school lunch program. Coordinating the program is a team of parent



volunteers known as the R.O.T. Team. The team designed the program to be self-sustaining and run by the students on a daily basis. Planning began one year before the Minneapolis Public School (MPS) district started its R.O.T. (Reduce Our Trash) organics-recycling program. The

Barton organics/waste reduction program, now in its third year, is run by students with help from teachers and custodial staff. The R.O.T. team meets regularly to discuss any issues that come up, maintain signage, and brainstorm on how to make the program better. They also attend meetings and serve as a resource for other schools in the Minneapolis Public Schools district wishing to start their own program. The Lunchroom Volunteer Coordinator solicits parent volunteers to assist in the lunchroom.

Hale Elementary School - Minneapolis

At Hale Elementary School in Minneapolis lunchroom volunteers are essential helpers. There is a great crew of parent volunteers responsible for getting the lunchroom ready so kids can eat their lunch each day. Volunteers arrive at the lunchroom by 10:00 a.m. They set out plates, forks, milk, condiments, then assist in putting the food out on the serving table. They replenish food and supplies as needed, and then put everything away again at the end of the last lunch around 11:35 a.m.

Resources

Lunch/Recess Handbook for Volunteers - Wood Acres Elementary - Bethesda, MD

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/woodacres/LunchRecessHandbook.pdf

