

Green Guidelines for a Classroom Party, Staff Appreciation or School-wide Event

In an effort to show the PTA's continued support of our district's commitment to the King County Green Schools Program, which runs in all six schools, we have created a green party/event guideline. Please review it before planning a party/event and make choices that support these waste reducing efforts.

CLASSROOM PARTIES

SUPPLIES: In an effort to be as zero waste as possible, please use reusable supplies or purchase compostable supplies in classroom parties or reusable supplies. Compostable supplies can be purchased at QFC, New Seasons or through our district's Food Services Dept. Supplies = plates, cups, bowls and utensils. These items are to be supplied by the room parents

SET UP FOR THE CLEAN UP...FIRST:

Bring 3 grocery store paper bags to use as compost bags for food, napkins and any other compostable items. Set them up next to your classroom's recycling and trash cans. This will be your "waste station". Please ask students to make sure they correctly sort their trash. Making this announcement before the party commences will be most effective.

FOOD:

To be zero waste, please don't buy single-use packaged foods because all foil packaging and plastic is trash. Examples of single-use packaging: String Cheese, small foil bags of chips or goldfish, fruit chews or cellophane wrapped goodies. Please buy in bulk when possible, and either use wax paper bags to dispense the snack or just serve it directly onto kid's plates. These are suggestions. We understand and appreciate that parents are volunteering their time and donating goods. If you can mind the zero-waste guidelines as much as possible, we appreciate it.

DRINKS:

In a perfect world, we would just serve kids water in reusable cups. But the world isn't perfect, so here are your options. The only disposable drink that **CANNOT** be recycled are foil pouches, such as Capri Sun, so please do **NOT** buy foil pouch drinks. All other plastic bottles or juice box type drinks **can all be recycled**. Please remind them to empty out the liquids in the classroom sink and throw the straw into the trash can before tossing the item into the recycling bin.

STAFF APPRECIATION EVENTS

SUPPLIES: In an effort to be as zero waste as possible, please use reusable supplies or purchase compostable supplies in classroom parties or reusable supplies. Compostable supplies can be purchased at QFC, New Seasons or through our district's Food Services Dept. Supplies = plates, cups, bowls and utensils. These items are to be supplied by volunteer parents

SET UP FOR THE CLEAN UP...FIRST:

All Staff Lounges are outfitted with trash, recycling and compost. Please make sure you place signs on the tables around the food to say "Please note that all plates, cups, bowls and utensils are compostable, so please compost them!" Or if you are using reusable supplies, the note can say "Please place all plates, cups, bowls and utensils into the sink to be washed!" If you serve drinks in cans, please have a

note that says "Please toss your cans, once emptied, into the recycling! Thanks!" After the party, have a parent walk the compost bags to the large brown Cedar Grove dumpster just outside the lunchroom.

FOOD:

To be zero waste, please don't buy single-use packaged foods because all foil packaging and plastic is trash. Examples of single-use packaging: String Cheese, small foil bags of chips or goldfish, fruit chews or cellophane wrapped goodies. Please buy in bulk when possible, and either use wax paper bags to dispense the food for individuals or pour bulk containers into a bowl. These are suggestions. We understand and appreciate that parents are volunteering their time and donating goods. If you can mind the zero-waste guidelines as much as possible, we appreciate it.

DRINKS:

Please avoid plastic bottles of any kind. If you can't skip drinks, please either provide compostable cups (MISD can provide) or serve canned drinks with a sign to remind staff to empty the leftover liquids out when they are finished and then recycle them!

SCHOOL WIDE EVENTS

SUPPLIES:

In an effort to be as zero waste as possible, please use reusable supplies or purchase compostable supplies in classroom parties or reusable supplies. Compostable supplies can be purchased at QFC, New Seasons or through our district's Food Services Dept. Supplies = plates, cups, bowls and utensils. These items will be provided to the school by the Food Service Department

SET UP FOR THE CLEAN UP...FIRST:

Our district makes zero waste events a breeze because they only provide us with compostable plates, cups, bowls and utensils! The main thing we need from the PTA is just to make sure there are signs up at the trash stations reminding people to sort their trash. And to add a line in the promotion of the event that it is a "Zero Waste Event, so please remember to sort your trash!"

FOOD:

The district provides food in bulk for your school, so this is not an issue for the PTA. If there is a change and parents are involved with purchasing and providing food, please review above guidelines regarding food.

DRINKS:

The district will provide compostable cups for drinks. Signage is the one thing you can help make sure is up and visible.

Here is a link to King County's Waste Management Website with a complete list of what is Recyclable and what is Compostable and what goes into the trash!

<http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/garbage-recycling/recycling-quick-guide.asp#recycle>