



Winter Park Elementary

“Waste Free Wednesday”

OVERVIEW

Winter Park Elementary School is a historic school located on the edge of the beautiful southeast North Carolina coast. Like all schools we are large contributors to our community landfill. After a close examination of the ways we are contributing to this problem, our students and staff identified that the hours we serve lunch produces the most significant volume of waste.

We know a clean environment is very important to healthy living and there are many ways citizens can contribute to help reduce the amount of waste headed to our county’s landfill. “Waste Free Wednesday” is an opportunity for the students and staff at Winter Park Elementary to make our difference. During lunch hours each Wednesday, the students, staff, and local community partners help us capture all materials that are compostable and recyclable served or brought into our cafeteria.

GOALS

1. Capture all compostable and recyclable materials bound for the landfill every Wednesday.
2. Manage stations to capture single use plastic shopping bags, batteries, and wires bound for the landfill Monday-Friday.

CELEBRATIONS

1. On average we produce 20 bags of trash during the hours we serve lunch. After 10 “Waste Free Wednesdays” we are averaging 1.2 a day!
2. Our average trash bag weighs about 33 pounds. So far this year we have kept about 10,494 pounds from the landfill!

COVID - 19 STAY AT HOME Update

Waste Free Wednesday will continue at Winter Park Elementary while our students and teachers are at home. Each Wednesday a container for collecting compost will be located at our “Grab and Go” lunch line. We encourage all members of the community to bring their countertop containers to participate. You do not need to be directly affiliated with Winter Park Elementary to utilize this collection site.



Winter Park Elementary's "Waste Free Wednesday"



Description

"Waste Free Wednesday" is a designated day of the week at Winter Park Elementary when all students and staff join efforts with the Wilmington Compost Company to greatly reduce or eliminate compostable, recyclable, and repurposable materials from entering the New Hanover County Landfill.

Details

- Winter Park has partnered with Wilmington Compost Company and UNCW to create the program "Waste Free Wednesday".
- During lunch hours a recycling and composting station is set up for students to sort items into appropriate collection containers before "throwing" them away.
- Two students from every K-5 grade classroom are designated helpers during "Waste Free Wednesday". The students have been trained by the staff to assist in the sorting process.
- All 5th Grade students will be visiting the New Hanover County Landfill for a guided tour on October 31, 2019.
- Monthly grade level assemblies will be held to teach students about the benefits of composting, recycling, and repurposing. Lessons will also focus on single use plastics, and microplastics.
- Wilmington Compost Company has aligned with UNCW to oversee 10 student volunteers that will help with data collection, environmental education, and to assist students at the "waste" sorting station.

Waste Free Wednesday Facts

- Number of "Waste Free Wednesdays" - 25
- Number of trash bags kept from the landfill - 450
- Number of lunch trays composted - 6,408
- Pounds of trash kept from the landfill - 10,494

Are you interested in learning more about WPES Waste Free Wednesday or talking about how you can start a Waste Free Wednesday at your school/business?

Contact Information

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