

DPS RECYCLING PROGRAM

HISTORY

Recycle Here! has worked in the Detroit Public Schools since 2007. The partnership, developed with the Office of Math and Science, has reached over 25,000 students.

Recycle Here! supplied each school with an educational package that included a kick off rally with mascot Bee Green, aluminum tokens, posters, labels and an educational video tailored to the students for teachers to use in the program. Schools collected recyclable materials, which were then picked up by Recycle Here! Additionally, each pickup included a lesson taught by the Recycle Here! team to a focused class. Schools participated in a competition based on participation, organization, and various activities. The winning school received a cash prize and a mural by local Detroit artist, Carl Oxley III.

The overall focus of the program was to teach the students and their families about how we recycle in the City of Detroit. Curriculum included visiting their neighborhood recycling center, understanding how Detroit processes solid waste and how they can make changes in their home life to reduce their impact on the environment.

THEIR VOICES

Mykah, 4th grade: “Thanks for teaching us how to recycle!”

Brian M., 5th grade: “We learned that our trash goes to landfills and incinerators.”

7th grade class: “Thank you for teaching us how much money and resources are wasted with unneeded packaging.”

TEACHERS

Laura Speegle, Nolan Prep Academy: “The benefit to the students was amazing. The students learned a lot and enjoyed the program! They have turned into environmental stewards.”

Mrs. Vyas, Emerson Elementary School: “Students learned #1&2 plastics and taught their parents. The students enjoyed (the program) and went home and “taught (their families), still excited about program.”

Macell Myers, Clara Rutherford Academy: “Our students benefited by being aware that they can help the earth now, as children, and that their part is valuable.”

And more: “it is a wonderful way for families to see that the decisions that they make about everyday items affect our environment and that they have a role in how our environment will end up. That by taking the time to reduce the amount of trash that they are putting out, they can make a difference.”

2010 SPONSORED DPS RECYCLING PROGRAM

A-ShirtBag has found five major sponsors to fund recycling in five Detroit public schools. Optik Birmingham is sponsoring Spain School, Inn Season Cafe is sponsoring Logan School, The Motown Museum in Detroit is sponsoring Hutchins School, Detroit's Russell Street Café is sponsoring Edison School and Avalon Bakery is sponsoring Burton School.
