



# SHAWNEE MISSION

SCHOOL DISTRICT



# **Cafeteria Composting & Recycling in the Shawnee Mission School District**

MORA 2018 Conference

Judd Remmers, Coordinator of Custodial Services



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# Shawnee Mission School District Cafeteria Composting

- The Shawnee Mission School District encompasses 14 municipalities in NE Johnson County, Kansas
- 27,521 students in 2016-2017
- 38 schools and administrative centers are currently composting
  - 29 elementary schools
  - 3 middle schools
  - 5 high schools
  - Center for Academic Achievement
- The remaining 11 schools will come on board in 2017-2018





# How did we get started?

- Food Service eliminated styrofoam in 2007
- Parents piloted an elementary school project with the help of the County in 2008
- By 2012, 12 schools had initiated the project as grassroots initiatives
- The district funded compostable liners and a commercial compost collection service (Missouri Organic) for schools wishing to participate
- In 2015, the Board of Education adopted cafeteria composting as part of the district strategic plan; hired the sustainability coordinator

# Belinder Elementary



- Started as a challenge-based project led by the fourth grade and their teacher, Jennifer Spears

# Key Partnerships



# Equipment – Elementary



Flatware  
3 gal



Liquids  
3 gal



Recycling  
x2  
32 gal



Landfill/Trash  
32 gal



Compost  
x2  
32 gal

**\*\*Colored containers provide visual cues\*\***

# Equipment – High School + Middle School



Liquids  
5 gal



Recycling  
50 gal



Landfill/Trash  
44 gallon



Compost  
x4  
32 gallon

- Number of bins will vary depending upon strategy for each school

# Equipment – Compost Bin Liners



# Signs



Color-coded signs guide students and staff

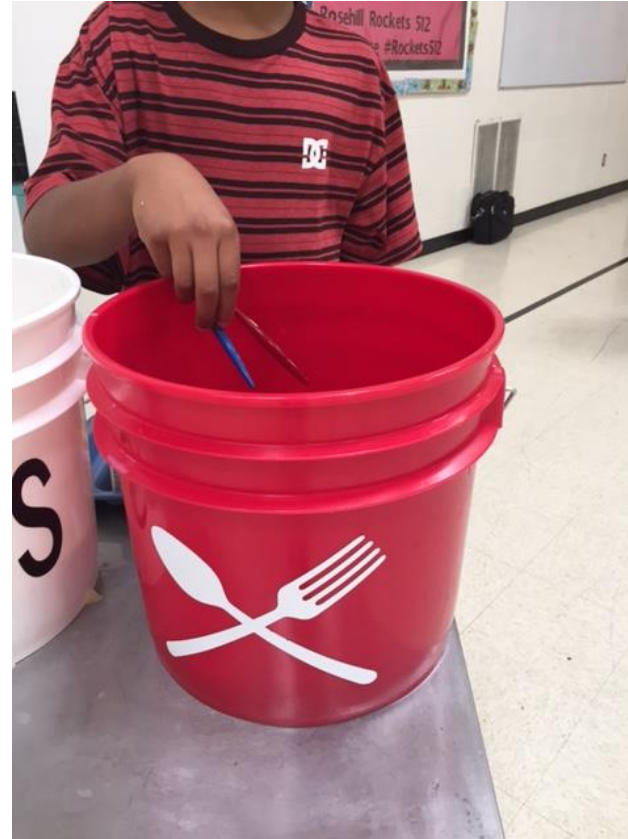
# Labeled Bins





# Forks and Spoons

- Place in the red bucket.



# Drinks

- Pour liquids into the white bucket.



# Recycle

- Drink cartons, juice boxes, water bottles go into the **blue recycle bin**.



# Trash goes to the Landfill

- Any scrunchy plastic or foil, like ketchup packets, chip bags or ziploc bags, go into the **gray** bin. **WHEN IN DOUBT – THROW IT OUT**



# Compost

- All food and paper, including cardboard trays and popsicle sticks, go into the **green compost bin.**





# Food Service initiatives to reduce waste

- Reusable or compostable trays
- Compostable paper boats to serve food
- Styrofoam eliminated
- Reusable or recyclable forks and spoons
- Reduced use of plastic and foil wrappers



# Markers of Success



- Public recognition and participation (administration, food service, students faculty, other districts)
- Student education and awareness (SM South High School video)

# Markers of Success



- Student education and awareness
- 213.75 tons of food recovered 2016-2017

# Full Circle

## School Gardens + the Broadmoor Urban Farm

- Kansas City Community Gardens provided Missouri Organic compost and topsoil to establish five school gardens last spring— more coming online this year (66% of schools have gardens)
- 500 cubic yards (10 tractor trailer loads) of compost were delivered to the Center for Academic Achievement in March in preparation for planting this summer – half was donated





QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

Judd Remmers, Coordinator  
Custodial Services  
Shawnee Mission School District  
[JuddRemmers@smsd.org](mailto:JuddRemmers@smsd.org) | 913.993.8519



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