

Grand View's Trash Free Lunch (TFL) Program



What does the TFL Program encompass?

- Packing a TFL
- Food donation
- Sorting waste

Trash Free Lunch As a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School, Grand View encourages parents and students to pack a trash-free lunch **EVERY DAY**. A trash-free lunch means packing nothing disposable: no foil, no plastic bags, no paper napkins, no throw-away food packaging for prepackaged foods, no disposable water bottles, no plastic utensils, no paper bags...you get the idea. A trash-free lunch contains only food, drink and reusable containers.

Food Donation

Starting this fall, all leftover unopened packaged food and uneaten whole pieces of fruit from the cafeteria will be donated to Food Finders (www.foodfinders.org) who, in turn, will take that food to nearby pantries and shelters.

Sorting Waste

Students help sort their lunchtime waste into the following bins: liquids, recycling, food waste, and landfill. Waste Management takes the food waste and transforms it into energy which we use here in Southern California!

Why should you care?

Here are some facts to inspire you:

1. Most of what we eat, drink, or use in any way comes packaged in petroleum plastic—a material designed to last forever, yet used for products that we then throw away. This throwaway mentality is a relatively recent phenomenon. Just a generation ago, we packaged our products in reusable or recyclable materials—glass, metals, and paper, and designed products that would last. Today, our landfills and beaches are awash in plastic packaging, and expendable products that have no value at the end of their short lifecycle.

Source: 5 Gyres Foundation. http://www.5gyres.org/what_is_the_problem

2. Lots of plastic is getting into the oceans' food chains/webs. Humans produce millions of tons of disposable plastics a year and lots of it washes into the ocean. Most plastic floats near the sea surface where some is mistaken for food by birds and fish. Research shows that there are now 6 pounds of plastic pieces in the ocean for every pound of zooplankton, a basic food for most sea animals.

Source: Algalita Marine Research Institute. http://www.algalita.org/research/pelagic_plastic.html

3. The U.S. discards more than 250 million tons of trash each year, or about 4.5 pounds per person each day. Most of that waste is either recyclable or compostable, but just one-third is actually recycled.

Source: USEPA. http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/msw_2010_rev_factsheet.pdf

4. In Los Angeles County we generate enough trash to fill Dodger Stadium every two or three days.

Source: Waste Management Inc.

5. Packing a trash-free lunch helps our environment, and saves money for both Grand View and Grand View parents. Since we started the Trash Free Lunch program, Grand View has saved nearly \$5,000 each year. That money is now going to buy things our teachers need instead of paying for trash-hauler pick-ups and garbage bags. Parents save money, too—up to \$300 a year per child—when they use reusable containers.

Source: Grades of Green. <http://www.gradesofgreen.org>