

Green Tips for Room Parents

1. Promote the use of Reusable Water Bottles

- a. Before school events, email a reminder to bring reusable water bottles.
 - i. Boosterthon, Carnival, Field Day, Field Trips, Movie Night, Gardening, etc.
- b. A milk crate works great for carrying classroom bottles out to the PE Field.

2. Avoid single-use plastic water bottles

- a. There is no plastic recycling at school. Coolers and biodegradable cups are a great water source, as are reusable water bottles. If you can't find another way to provide water, please collect the used bottles after the event and recycle them at home.

3. Choose Paper vs Plastic

- a. Table cloths, cups, utensils, serving bowls, etc. can all be found in paper or bamboo materials, which are usually biodegradable and better for the environment. Search "biodegradable party materials" on amazon.com.
- b. OR consider purchasing a **PARTY PACK** from the Green Committee and all of your classroom party serving needs are taken care of for the entire year!

4. We are a "STRAW-FREE" school

- a. Last year we became the first elementary school in MDCPS to ban plastic straws after our 5th graders' successful "Ban the Straw" campaign.
- b. M-DCPS also began an initiative in the 2019-2020 school year to eliminate the plastic straw from the utensil packet purchased for all cafeterias.

5. Ask your teacher if you can post the **Energy Saving Reminder List** in the classroom (see attached).

6. Classroom Recycling

- a. Ask your teacher if you can set out a small cardboard collection box for used markers, and empty in the media center collection box as needed.
- b. Help ensure that **ONLY clean cardboard, office and construction paper** are placed in the recycling bin. Use scraps for projects, decoration, or scratch paper.

Have questions or need more ideas? Want to order a Party Pack? Contact the Green Committee! Lisa Mainka, PTA Green Committee Chair: lisamainka@me.com

Energy Saving Checklist

During the Day:

1. Turn off lights & computer monitors when you leave the room.
2. Make sure faucets are completely off when not in use. No leaks!
3. Keep the door & windows closed so the AC doesn't work overtime.
4. Unplug electronic devices when not in use.

End of Day:

1. Turn off computers, monitors, and printers.
2. Turn off the Smartboard.
3. Unplug electronic devices when possible.
4. Close all windows.
5. Turn off classroom lights.