

TAYLORS ELEMENTARY GREEN STEPS 2019-2020



Our Topcats continued all of our Green Steps projects this year, but unfortunately, plans of making pictures didn't pan out too well—especially when school buildings closed due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, our Topcats have continued to take leadership in making a difference in the environment through restoring, conserving and protecting.

RESTORE - GARDENING



LEARN

Students learn about planting starter plants in the school garden from Mrs. Kay as she teaches them about soil and how to handle plants as they are removing them from containers and placing them in the garden.



DO

Students put what they learned into practice by planting Swiss Chard in the school garden. They then tended the garden by watering and weeding.



TEACH

After learning about planting a garden and planting our school garden, students took this home and taught their families about planting a garden. This student worked with her family to plant her own garden.

RESTORE – COMPOSTING



LEARN

Students learn about composting through classroom lessons and presentations.

DO

Students put knowledge into practice by composting fruit and vegetables from our cafeteria, then using that compost in our gardens.





TEACH

We have a vermicomposting bin that is passed around from class to class to give students the opportunity to learn about vermicomposting through hands on care of the bin. Students use the shared vermicomposting bin to teach other students about the importance of composting.

CONSERVE – RECYCLING



LEARN

Posters provided by Greater Greenville Sanitation were used to teach students about the proper way to recycle so that our school could maximize the amount of materials we recycle at our school.



DO

Environmental classroom leaders empty their classroom containers into recycling bins each day.



TEACH

Each morning our school recycling team picks up the recycling bins and takes them out to the recycling containers in back of the school. They also do posters and news announcements to promote recycling.

CONSERVE – REDUCE

SUSTAINABLE **SCHOOLS**
ORGANIZATION, INC. • 528-3478
WWW.SUSTAINSC.ORG

Greater Greenville SANITATION

Tap 'n Stack

STEP 1
Remove recyclables & garbage into proper bin.

STEP 2
Then stack the trays neatly to save space in the garbage dumpster.



LEARN

Poster provided by Greater Greenville Sanitation was used to teach students about Tap 'n Stack to save room in the garbage and in landfills. Also, our recycling leadership team helps in the cafeteria, as well as our morning patrols, to remind students.



DO

Students separate liquids, trash, recycling and then stack trays to reduce the volume of trash.



TEACH

Our cafeteria leadership team works with students to teach them about ways we can reduce trash by tapping and stacking and recycling. Leadership team (in the orange aprons) monitor and work with students to teach them correct ways sort liquids, trash and recycling and then stack their trays before leaving the cafeteria.

PROTECT - B2 BREATHE BETTER PROGRAM

LEARN

B2 Breathe Better resources provided by Amy Curran were used to teach students about the effects of idling vehicles and ways they can make a difference by encouraging parents and others not to idle vehicles. Posters, flags, as well as links to lessons gave us a wide variety of materials to use as students were learning about this program.



IDLING IS EXPENSIVE >>>

up to a gallon or more of fuel per hour, depending on vehicle size

IDLING POLLUTES >>>

a gallon of fuel creates about 20 lbs. of greenhouse gases

IDLING THREATENS HEALTH >>>

breathing vehicle emissions increases risk of respiratory illness

This is one of the on line resources provided by the B2 program used to help students learn about the effects of idling.

Idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine

•
Idling wastes
6 BILLION GALLONS OF FUEL each year in the U.S.

DO

Students collected data in the fall on cars and buses and submitted it to the Breathe Better program. Our baseline data showed that out of 114 cars there were 24 cars idling and out of 7 buses no buses were idling. Unfortunately, due to the closing of school buildings in March, we were unable to collect and submit spring data.

(I was planning to get a picture when they collected spring data – but didn't get to do that picture.)

TEACH

Students passed out fliers in our car line to educate parents on the harmful effects of idling while waiting in the car line.



PROTECT – WATER



LEARN

Kylie Stackis from TreesUpstate spent an entire day at our school working with six of our classes to plant six trees on our school grounds. Students learned about the importance of trees and the proper way to plant and care for trees. These six classes adopted their trees to care for and to teach other students.



PLANTING



MULCHING



WATERING

DO

After the students learned about the importance of trees and the proper way to plant and care for trees, they then planted, mulched and watered their trees. These six classes will continue to water and care for these trees and to teach other students.



TEACH

Students used posters to educate others about the importance of trees. This student used the pictures of students in her class and her teacher's picture to teach about how trees are important to everyone.