



Zero Waste Events

TO: LAHS Team Parents
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Thank you all Team Parents who have had successful Zero Waste Events (pasta feeds and team parties) in the past. This handout is meant to assist new team parents with their team's food events on campus.

Most Important: **Zero Waste planning begins before your event.** When assigning parents to purchase items, you will need to educate them on what items to buy and what to avoid.

LAHS has applied for and received recognition as a **Green Certified High School**. This is an intense process and to meet the requirements and recommendations of our green certification, we must reduce waste by using Zero Waste purchasing practices and disposal practices.

What is a Zero Waste Event?

A Zero Waste event is an event where food is served and there is no trash or garbage at all. With the use of reusable, recyclable and compostable materials and proper planning, you can do it! All "waste" from a Zero Waste event goes in either the **recycling (blue) bin or compost (green) bin.**

YOU can achieve Zero Waste in your events by planning ahead and observing the following few simple guidelines:

Plates:

Greenest option - reusable plates: This is the preferred option.

Green option - compostable or other paper plates: Any paper plate that can be ripped, is compostable. But certified organic paper plates are preferred.

No go: Plastic plates.

Utensils:

Greenest option - reusable utensils: Purchase a set of **reusable metal utensils** that are collected in a container, washed at home and stored for reuse at future events.

Green option - compostable utensils: These take too long to decompose at our local commercial compost facility and must be placed in a [recycling bin](#).

Avoid - plastic utensils: These also go in a [recycling bin](#).

Drinks/Cups/Reusable Water Bottles:

Greenest option - reusable containers: Encourage the use of reusable drinking bottles for events. Bottle refill stations: do you have them? If not, launch a campaign to get one or more. LAHS has the following bottle refill fountains: #1 cafeteria, #2 library foyer, #3 large gym foyer, #4 at the football field. Plus, four water fountains have been retrofitted with swan necks for refilling bottles: on the wall of the weight room, between the restrooms outside the Eagle Theater, between the student restrooms on far side of the quad, and in the gym.

Green option - recyclable cups: If you use plastic cups, try to choose a # 1 or # 2 plastic. The higher the number, the more times it can be recycled. Avoid, red or blue Solo cups with a #5 on the bottom.

Serving Dishes and Serving Utensils:

Parent or youth-prepared food is great. Reusable serving plates, bowls, and utensils -- should be returned to parents or youth representatives that provided them. Foil pasta baking pans with little food residue can go in the [recycling bin](#). Wash at event or take home to clean and recycle.

Napkins:

All paper napkins can go in the [compost bin](#). Certified compostable napkins are preferred. As are napkins with high recycled content materials whenever possible. 100% recycled content napkins can be found at Safeway, brand name "Bright Green."

Clean up Towels:

Cloth is recommended. Alternative: certified compostable paper towels from World Centric or 100% recycled content paper towels available at Safeway.

Packaging: Purchase food or other items with the least amount of packaging.

Recycling-Compost Bin Pairs on Campus: LAHS has a "twin bin" system for all waste:

- **GREEN** Compost Bins - food waste, paper plates, soiled napkins, pizza boxes, etc.
- **BLUE** Recycling Bin - everything else goes in the recycling bin.

Past events at the football field have used the larger toters. To get large toters for your event, notify Georgina Davila, in the attendance office: Georgina.Davila@mvla.net, 650-940-8815, two (2) days prior to your event.

QUESTIONS: Contact sybilcramer@mac.com, or margaret.suozzo@gmail.com.

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