Springhurst Recycle & Compost

After a one-week food waste audit in **2015** to measure the waste generated at Springhurst, K-5 students took the initiative to continue to sort their waste into a multi bin system for recycling.

Before the waste audit week, ALL materials including recyclables were discarded into the trash/landfill. Students were missing the opportunity to learn about the many ways their waste can benefit the Springhurst community, and the Earth.

As of **2015** small amounts of unopened food donations are collected.

As of **2016**, compost is made on-site seasonally for use in the Outdoor Classroom/Garden creating a closed loop food cycle with zero waste goals. COMPOST KIDS is officially launched as a waste reduction program for all K5 students, with lessons piloted in several grades.

As of **2019**, Compostable paper products and all food waste are collected and transported to a commercial compost facility.

As of **2021,** a robust weekly food recovery system is in place for students to donate unopened food from their lunch periods. PTSA and Spring Community Partner members transport the recovered food to the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry every Wednesday.

What a multi-bin waste station looks like

1. Food Donations
2. Liquids
3. Trash/landfill
4. Commingled Recycle-plastic, glass & metal
5. Recycle paper
6. Compost - food waste
7. Compost - trays/paper products/food waste

By sorting into multi-bins, landfill waste is reduced, recycling rates increase, food scraps produce compost* for the Outdoor Classroom & Garden, and recovered food is donated to those in need in our community.

* Compost- decomposed organic material used as a plant fertilizer

To learn more about what goes where, please visit the DFSD Recycle Center
https://www.dfsd.org/Domain/567

Students are learning that their "waste does not have to be waste", food scraps are valuable resources, and that they can make a difference by being stewards of the environment.