

TRASH FREE LUNCH at Westbrook

There is a great tradition of environmentalism at Westbrook. One of the ways the PTA encourages families to be environmentally responsible is through our Trash Free Lunch program. "**Trash Free**" means students bring lunches in recyclable or reusable containers. By doing so, we do our part in saving millions of plastic bags, bottles and trash from going into our landfills and oceans each year. Did you know kids across this country throw out 20 million sandwich baggies every day?

The **Trash Free Lunch** program not only encourages students and families to develop good habits, but also models environmental awareness at the school-wide level.

Trash Free Lunch raffle days are announced once a month when PTA co-chairs and volunteers visit the lunchroom, talk with students and check their lunches. When students are trash free on this day, their names are entered into a raffle to win a trash free lunch prize that day. A student from each class wins a prize each month. At the end of the year, the class with the highest participation rate **WINS** a trash free party!

Please join us in packing a trash free lunch for your child every day.

Guidelines for Trash Free Lunch

To be trash free students should bring all food and drinks in recyclable or reusable containers. Also bring cloth napkins and reusable utensils.

Trash Free:

- * Any reusable container
- * Recyclable containers such as yogurt, apple sauce cups, tin foil and plastic water bottles. Excess food is to be dumped at dumping station. Students are directed to put containers and tin foil in recycling bins in the cafeteria
- * Banana peels, apple cores, etc. which are biodegradable

The following is considered TRASH:

- * Plastic bags of any kind (even if the kids take them home to reuse them)
- * Individually packaged snacks (cheese sticks, chips, granola bars, yogurts, etc.)
- * Juice boxes, pouches or Horizon milk containers (although the box may be recyclable, the straw and wrappers are not)
- * Disposable plastic utensils
- * Paper napkins

For School Bought Lunch: Bring in reusable utensils and a cloth napkin. Students must recycle their milk container & black tray in the cafeteria