

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indian Hill School Launches Composting Initiative to Foster Sustainability

Holmdel, NJ – In a significant step towards bolstering its commitment to environmental sustainability, Indian Hill School is thrilled to announce the launch of a comprehensive composting initiative. Spearheaded as part of the Holmdel School District's broader sustainability efforts, the program officially commenced on March 11th with an engaging school-wide presentation delivered by representatives from Monmouth County's Reclamation Center. This informative session served to educate students and staff on the importance of waste reduction and the benefits of composting, laying the groundwork for active participation in the new program.

The success of this initiative hinges on the enthusiastic involvement of volunteer students who have eagerly stepped forward to take on the crucial role of collecting lunchroom food scraps. These dedicated students will be responsible for gathering organic waste and transporting it to designated compost bins located on school grounds. Furthermore, they will play an integral part in the weekly management of the composting process, gaining valuable hands-on experience in environmental stewardship. This student-led effort underscores the school's commitment to empowering young learners to become active participants in creating a more sustainable future.

The driving force behind this exciting project is the Indian Hill School's dedicated Sustainability Committee. This collaborative team comprises passionate educators from various disciplines, including Science, Specials, and Special Services. The committee members – Jaclyn Gargano, Beth Ann Griller, Lisa McTague, Meredith Thomas, and Hailey Weinstein – have been instrumental in organizing and implementing the composting program. Their collective expertise and commitment to sustainability have been vital in bringing this initiative to fruition for the benefit of the entire school community.

Further enriching the students' understanding of environmental science, Lisa McTague will be leading engaging lessons for all Science classes throughout the month of April. Aligning with Earth Day celebrations, her curriculum will delve into the intricacies of composting and its connection to planting initiatives within the school's courtyard, located just outside the Media Center. Utilizing hands-on activities and drawing upon the STEAM Standards for the State of New Jersey and the Content Curriculum Standards, these lessons will provide a practical and interdisciplinary

approach to learning about sustainable living.

The ultimate vision for this composting initiative extends beyond waste reduction. The school's outdoor classroom space will serve as a living laboratory, bringing the principles of sustainable living to life for both students and Science teachers. As a tangible demonstration of this effort, the goal is to utilize the nutrient-rich compost generated by the students to plant flowers in the courtyard. This beautiful addition to the school environment will serve as a constant reminder of their commitment to environmental responsibility and the positive impact of their collective actions.

