

SCMS Green Initiatives

Green Club (students)

The Green Club is a student led group for students interested in making Silver Creek MS an environmentally friendly school. Students plan and implement environmental actions like Cartridges for Kids, making PSA announcements, recycling paper, running recycle Olympics, identifying trees, and cleaning up school grounds. All students; all grades welcome. Meetings held on Thursdays after school.

Cartridges for Kids

Recycle your used ink cartridges and broken cell phones and laptops! Through a partnership with Cartridges for Kids these unwanted items can earn cash for our school. Recyclable items can be placed in the collection box located in the Media Center or brought to Ms. Cornell's room (226).

The Green Committee

A PTSA sponsored program that works with the Green Club, the SGA and SCMS administration to set up green/environmental policies and programs.

Among the Green Committee Initiatives are:

Clothing to Cash

Looking to get rid of old clothes and accessories? Help SCMS raise money by donating to Clothing to Cash. All items will be reworn, repurposed or finally recycled. Silver Creek earns 10 cents for every pound donated.

Acceptable items:

- New or used clothing
- Shoes
- Textiles (bedding, towels, blankets)
- Jewelry
- Purses & wallets
- Backpacks
- Scarves

Please place all items in the collection bin located in the parking lot. **Items should be clean, dry and placed in tied plastic bags.**

Idle-Free zone

The student pick-up/drop off zone at the front of the school is "idle -free". Parents and guardians are asked to turn off engines in this area. Idling engines waste gasoline and emit unnecessary carbon into the atmosphere, which in turn is absorbed into the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. By turning off car engines, we make the air and water healthier and save fuel.

Silver Creek Clean Up Days

With the help of Montgomery County Parks, Rock Creek Conservancy and the Audubon Society, we host 2 stream cleanups per year, in the Fall and Spring. Students may earn SSL hours and Silver Creek families and friends are encouraged to join.

Composting at SCMS

Silver Creek now composts! Beginning in Fall 2019, compost bins have been added to the cafeteria. Students and families are encouraged to separate-out food waste from other lunch trash for weekly removal by the Compost Crew. This step helps to reduce landfills and the methane gas they produce, and turns food-waste into nutrient-rich soil and oxygen. Composting with pick-up services by the Compost Crew makes composting easy, clean and seamless.

The 2019-2020 program was funded by a generous private donation, however our school program will be sustained when members of the SCMS community opt to compost at home. Each family that hires the Compost Crew to remove their compost weekly for a discounted rate (and a few bags of nutrient-rich compost in return) is also contributing \$2/month to support the SCMS in-school program.

Please consider composting at home with the ease of a weekly pick up service. SCMS still has access to the amazing 50% discount from Compost Crew. You can also look into compost pick-up from Veteran Compost or Compost Cab. Eventually we hope Montgomery County will make this a standard part of everyone's trash pick-up to reduce landfill waste.

To Compost At Home:

1. Sign-up for a monthly or annual membership: <http://compostcrew.com/residential/> (pay only \$18/month. \$2 of your bill will go back to SCMS to help pay for in-school pick up)
2. Input the code: SILVERCREEKMSCOMPOSTS to receive our community discount
3. Get an email that say's your account is finalized - with instructions for curbside collection.
4. Start Composting! (Any food, paper, and so many other items they'll take:
<http://compostcrew.com/The%20List.pdf>)
5. Feel super proud that you're taking a small but important step to help our environment!!

SCMS's composting program is now considered a model as many other schools throughout Montgomery County take steps to replicate it.