



THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

New River Middle School
Melinda Wessinger, Principal
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Broward County, Florida**
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October 10, 2019

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Hello Parents and Guardians:

We are thrilled to announce that New River Middle School has partnered with our District's Food & Nutrition Services to pilot a food rescue project for the district. This new partnership will help reduce food waste in the school cafeteria, reducing the school's carbon footprint, while supporting hunger relief in our community.

Food in the landfill decomposes and creates methane gas, which is 25 times more potent than CO₂. Over 1 billion food items are wasted annually in U.S. schools. A food waste audit conducted by students recovered 289 unwrapped, unpeeled food items. This converts to **40** pounds of greenhouse gases emitted into atmosphere each day. Keeping food out of the landfill significantly reduces greenhouse gases. Additionally, our partnership allows us to tackle hunger issues in the city of Fort Lauderdale. The food that is rescued will be distributed to our community through **LifeNet4Families** food pantry.

Nourishing our students is our top priority, so we will not encourage students to donate any food they *want* to eat. Rather, we want to encourage them to choose an alternative for their leftover unopened, uneaten or unpeeled items. Students who are still hungry may also select items from the share table if they would like something extra to eat.

Items that can be rescued include: unopened milk cartons, juice, fruit cups, yogurt, cheese sticks, hummus, cereal bowls, raisin boxes, crackers, whole bananas, and oranges. Cold items will be stored in a cooler to ensure safe temperatures are maintained. If you have any questions about the program, please contact Cheryl Reep at 754-323-3645.

Sincerely,

Melinda Wessinger
Principal