

House Environment And
Transportation Committee.

Chairman Kumar Barve

January 20,2016

Early Session Briefing On

Learn Shop Inc.'s "Drive For Supplies" Partnership

With Montgomery County Public Schools

Address Notes:
Rev. Kevin K Newcomer
Learn Shop Inc.
Drive For Supplies
January 20,2016

Chairman Kumar Barve

Maryland House Transportation and Environment Committee

Dear Committee Members:

In the packets you received today, you will find letters of support for Learn Shop's Drive For Supplies program with Montgomery County Public Schools from: Ms. Kathy Lazor. Head of MCPS Materials Management. Larry Bowers, Acting Superintendent, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Senator Ben Cardin, and a wonderful note of thanks from Miguel Carbo-Benites, The Consul General of Ecuador, one of many countries also assisted. We hope at the end of this whole presentation we can count you all in as supporters as well.

The representatives of Montgomery County Public Schools and Learn Shop Inc. are here to share with you the success of our partnership. We do this in the hope that other school systems will join us in the effort to reduce waste and reuse valuable resources. In theory this presentation should be given to the committee that handles education. The thing is, your committee is also about educating people in better environmental approaches. We have found that year end desk and locker clean outs cost school systems money in increased trash tipping fees.

Now, one way to deal with that cost is to require students to bring a contractor grade trash bag to school and take their trashed locker contents to their own home. We would miss a great teachable opportunity with that approach. When the students donate the usable supplies, they have an opportunity to separate out the spent papers to be recycled. The Drive For Supplies can reuse the other tools of learning for economically challenged students. The students involved learn much more.

The Drive For Supplies is having an impact in Montgomery County, Maryland and is still growing. Our great desire is to see it expand all across our State. We are surrounded by traditions, routines, technological advances, habits that effect us as individuals, groups, and societies in our global community.

Montgomery County Public Schools, by partnering with Learn Shop Inc., has developed an incredible “Best Practice” -- that of encouraging students to donate school supplies which traditionally were cast into the waste stream, to be instead processed and redistributed to other students in need. This process utilizes multiple problems to make multiple solutions:

- 1. The need to encourage students to think how they may make a positive contribution in the greater world.**
- 2. The need to handle scholastic year end waste.**
- 3. The need for impoverished students locally and abroad to have school supplies at no cost to their families.**

Please consider the contents of an average student's locker in April, filled with papers, pens, pencils, rulers and books. Now multiply those contents by every elementary, middle and high school student across our state. Like a Modern Marvels History Channel program, this tradition developed here in the USA. There are still places in the world where students learn from teachers sitting under a tree. In the U S one room school houses developed. Over the years the schools increased in size with our population. The new larger buildings had lockers for the students to utilize for their coats, lunches, and other school materials. Our culture changed post World War II to encourage consumption for the sake of the overall economy.

I witnessed my first school locker clean out in 1972 as a student at Robert Frost Junior High. It seemed to be conducted like a military drill. Trash cans were provided and we had a limited time to clean out our lockers. I was amazed. My fellow students threw out seemingly everything. I stayed an hour after school helping myself to the rulers, papers, pens, and even books. I had graph paper well into college. At one point I decided I could not save all the colored pencils in the world.

Years later, while seeking to become an ordained minister, I met an amazing woman named Louise. We married and became a clergy couple. When Louise Newcomer decided to form the non-profit organization Learn Shop Inc. I assisted in any way I could. She taught classes to economically challenged people on shopping techniques to better stretch out their food budgets. We collected and distributed grocery coupons. We also purchased items for soup kitchens and food pantries.

In 1999 Louise had a vision of assisting the Kosovar Refugees temporarily relocated at Fort Dix, New Jersey. She planned a “Drive For Supplies”. The supplies we requested of the general public included clothing, toys, games, etc. My role was to call on each volunteer fire department in Montgomery County to seek permission for them to be drop off points in the community. The volunteer fire departments were each independent. We decided to collect school supplies as well.

At that time home economics teachers handled the new student volunteer service learning program, so we approached those teachers at four schools. They collected over 4 palettes of school materials from their locker clean outs. It went so well we expanded the next year with the blessing of then School Superintendent Jerry Weast. With the tremendous contributions of Ms. Karen Crawford and now Ms. Katie Rossini. We are now up to 88 tons of school supplies saved and dispersed since its inception. The majority is distributed in Montgomery County to students, teachers, YMCAs , ESOL and Linkages to Learning programs. By virtue of my pastorate at English Consul Christian Church, I see to it that South West Emergency Services of Baltimore County receives needed supplies. Supplies have been even shipped to other countries such as Ecuador, Nigeria, Haiti, Jamaica, the Philippines and Iraq. As I tell my interfaith colleagues, it makes no difference that your Holy Scriptures are written in every language if they cannot read in the first place.

Consider this: Years ago those below the age of eighteen were considered “infants” under the law. They could sign no contracts or be held responsible in certain situations. An impoverished child is not responsible for their poverty. Their poverty as a child, however, could well be responsible for a less than optimal economic situation in the future for all of us. The Truman administration put the free and reduced lunch program in place in an effort to produce smarter, healthier men of fighting age. It was a national security issue. We are approaching a similar situation as that very program is a measure of student poverty in the U.S. today. You will find a chart in the back of your packet. According to the Southern Education Foundation, Maryland is relatively lucky in that only 43% of our public school students qualify for the free or reduced school lunch program. In California it is 55%, 59% in Florida, 61% in Oklahoma, and even 71% in Mississippi. The national average is 51% of our public school students. There are roughly 50 million students across our nation.

A student should not have to debate with themselves over whether to use their paper for note taking or homework. Like the volunteer fire departments, each of Maryland's school districts are independent. If they could work together on this, it would do wonders. Should Howard County have excess they could share with Allegheny County. Baltimore County could share with Baltimore City's Public School System. We have both pockets of wealth and poverty across this State and the Nation.

We are here today to seek your help and support in any way you can to assist us in saving all of the colored pencils in the world. According to the EPA and the U.S. Department of Education in 2000, MCPS is the first to collect usable school supplies in a systematic process school district wide. We would like Maryland to be the first to implement this concept Statewide. Our Governor Larry Hogan could share our success with the other states and encourage them to do the same. If the other counties of Maryland would partner with Learn Shop as MCPS has, we could track the progress made. James Harkin, Director of the Maryland Environmental Service noted today: "What doesn't get measured, doesn't get done." If a school system needs faith communities to assist in the sorting and distribution, that can be arranged. My Regional Minister, Allen Harris, would be happy to help with those connections.

We are tired of school supplies ending up in the wrong hands. For over fifty years usable school supplies have ended up in trash cans in the hands of the garbage collectors. You can assist us in changing that practice. With this being an example for the other States, Maryland could greatly fight ignorance, poverty and environmental degradation around the world. As far as I know, there are no definitive studies that prove that pens and pencils in the ground improve water quality. Through the work of Lt. Scott Egan and his parents, MCPS supplies helped set up a school in the Anbar Province of Iraq. By working with institutions such as the World Bank's Book Project, resources are available to identify worthy schools around the world. This could help the U.S. Depts. Of Defense, State and the EPA In their missions.

My own family has been in Western Maryland for some 200 years now. My Grandfather, John Newcomer, was even a Delegate from Washington County in the late 1940's. I want My Maryland to be the first to do this Statewide. I believe your committee can help us do that.

Thank you for your time in listening to our presentation.



January 15, 2016

Reverend Kevin Newcomer
The Learn Shop, Inc.
2617 Newton Street
Wheaton, Maryland 20902-5511

Dear Reverend Newcomer:

It is my pleasure to recognize the successful collaboration between the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Department of Materials Management and The Learn Shop, Inc. Our organizations work together in the *Drive for Supplies* initiative that encourages students to donate used, but usable, school supplies at the end of the school year when they clean out their lockers, book bags, and desks. This is a wonderful opportunity to educate our students about the benefits of reusing and recycling supplies. Additionally the usable school supplies are donated to help disadvantaged MCPS students and local children of all ages.

The Department of Materials Management (DMM) delivers boxes, labels, and tape to the schools in May. Schools then collect the student items and work with the *Drive for Supplies* coordinator at the school. Once school has closed in June, the DMM team returns to the schools to pick up the boxes and deliver them to the identified distribution site.

As you know, last June over 14,000 pounds of supplies were collected from 81 schools. This is a student driven effort. Students work with the school coordinator to collect and box the supplies. Students earn Student Service Learning credit by helping to sort and separate the donated supplies and help those coming to the donation site. Students recognize that *Drive for Supplies* has a positive impact on the environment while instilling a sense of responsibility.

The DMM is proud to be a part of the *Drive for Supplies* initiative in MCPS. It is our goal that all MCPS schools participate in the initiative in the future.

Respectfully yours,

Kathleen C. Lazor, Director
Department of Materials Management

KCL:flr

Department of Materials Management



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MARYLAND
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

January 14, 2016

The Reverend Kevin Newcomer
Program Director, Drive for Supplies
Learn Shop, Inc.
2617 Newton Street
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902-5511



Dear Reverend Newcomer:

I was honored to attend the *Drive for Supplies* celebration on July 13, 2015. The quantity of recycled school supplies donated by our school system and community partners exceeded 13,289 pounds. Eighty-one schools (10 high schools, 21 middle schools, and 50 elementary schools) participated in the program by collecting and donating gently used materials. Sixty-five student leaders worked to organize and distribute donated supplies at the celebration. It is extremely gratifying to know that these school supplies were distributed to children who reside in Montgomery County and to nonprofit organizations that work with our community's youth.

Beginning in summer 2000, Montgomery County Public Schools has partnered with Learn Shop, Inc. to collect and distribute approximately 88 tons of school supplies. Your mission to help low-income families in Montgomery County and around the world is to be applauded. *Drive for Supplies* not only operates to benefit economically disadvantaged children; it also works to protect the environment by recycling items that otherwise would end up in landfills.

Participation in *Drive for Supplies* provides an excellent opportunity for our schools and student leaders to develop leadership skills, encourage recycling, and support children in need. *Drive for Supplies* contributes in significant, meaningful ways to help our greater community.

I look forward to continuing our partnership well into the future.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Bowers
Interim Superintendent of Schools

LAB:MVN:dab

Copy to:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Dr. Navarro | Ms. Berner |
| Mrs. Richardson | Ms. Rossini |

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

850 Hungerford Drive, Room 122 ♦ Rockville, Maryland 20850 ♦ 301-279-3381

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2016

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5341

DISTRICT OFFICES:
51 MONROE STREET, #507
ROCKVILLE, MD 20850
(301) 424-3601

205 CENTER STREET
SUITE 206
MOUNT AIRY, MD 21771
(301) 829-2171

www.vanhollen.house.gov

Mrs. Louise Newcomer
Executive Director
Learn Shop, Inc.
2617 Newton Street
Silver Spring, MD 20902-5511

Dear Mrs. Newcomer:

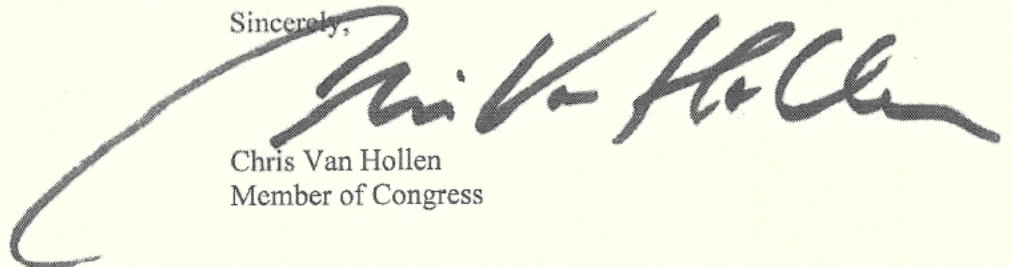
I am writing in strong support of the Drive for Supplies program.

I have attended the Drive for Supplies Year-End Recycling Celebration in the past. In years when I am unable to attend, I ensure that a member of my staff attends this wonderful annual event as my representative. In fact, I have recognized the accomplishments of the project in the *Congressional Record* and commended it to all of my congressional colleagues. My staff and I agree that this is an extremely worthwhile program and are pleased to learn of its effort to expand to other counties in Maryland and, eventually, statewide. I hope that Maryland can set an example as the first state in the nation with a statewide School Supply Recycling Policy and/or Program.

I appreciate how important Drive for Supplies' work is in providing free school supplies to needy children and families, how much of the waste stream has been diverted to reuse, and how students and staff of our public schools have come together to set an example for important social action as a solution to our environmental and educational needs.

Thank you for your outstanding work. As always, please let me know if I can be of assistance to you in any way.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
MARYLAND

www.cardin.senate.gov

509 HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2004
(202) 224-4524

TOWER 1, SUITE 1710
100 S. CHARLES STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21201
(410) 962-4436

United States Senate

January 19, 2016

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
FINANCE
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SMALL BUSINESS

COMMISSION ON SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Mrs. Louise Newcomer
Executive Director
Learn Shop, Inc.
2617 Newton Street
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Dear Mrs. Newcomer:


I write to congratulate you on the Drive for Supplies program. Your efforts to collect gently used school supplies and distribute them to disadvantaged students offers a great many benefits throughout our community.

As students clean out their lockers at the end of the school year, teachers and administrators at their schools ask them donate usable supplies that would otherwise be thrown away. Drive for Supplies collects these supplies and over the summer, volunteers sort them for distribution in the fall. Those volunteers include Montgomery County Public School students, who are able to receive Student Service Learning credit for their time.

This program assists students who otherwise do not have the resources to purchase supplies by giving them access to many of the tools they need to take full advantage of their educational opportunities. It helps our environment by repurposing usable materials rather than sending filling our landfills. And it demonstrates to both students and teachers that they can become part of the solution to both of these problems.

Thank you for the time and thought you and Reverend Newcomer have put into Drive for Supplies. As a result of your work, students from all economic backgrounds benefit and learn from this project, our environment is protected, and resources are better utilized. I wish you the best in your effort to expand the program throughout the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,


Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

BLC:mp



REPUBLICA DEL ECUADOR
Oficina Consular del Ecuador en
Washington, D.C.



Ministerio
de Relaciones Exteriores
y Movilidad Humana

No. 3-8-06/2016
Washington, January 15, 2016

CERTIFICATION

The Consulate General of Ecuador in Washington certifies that on 2003 the Embassy received a donation from the Foundation "Learn Shop Inc.", which was sent to Ecuador through its Police Attaché Office. The donation included the following:

- 3 wheelchairs
- 1 refrigerator
- Computers
- School supplies
- Furniture for a medical dispensary

This donation was sent to Ecuador and distributed among needed people in rural areas of the country.

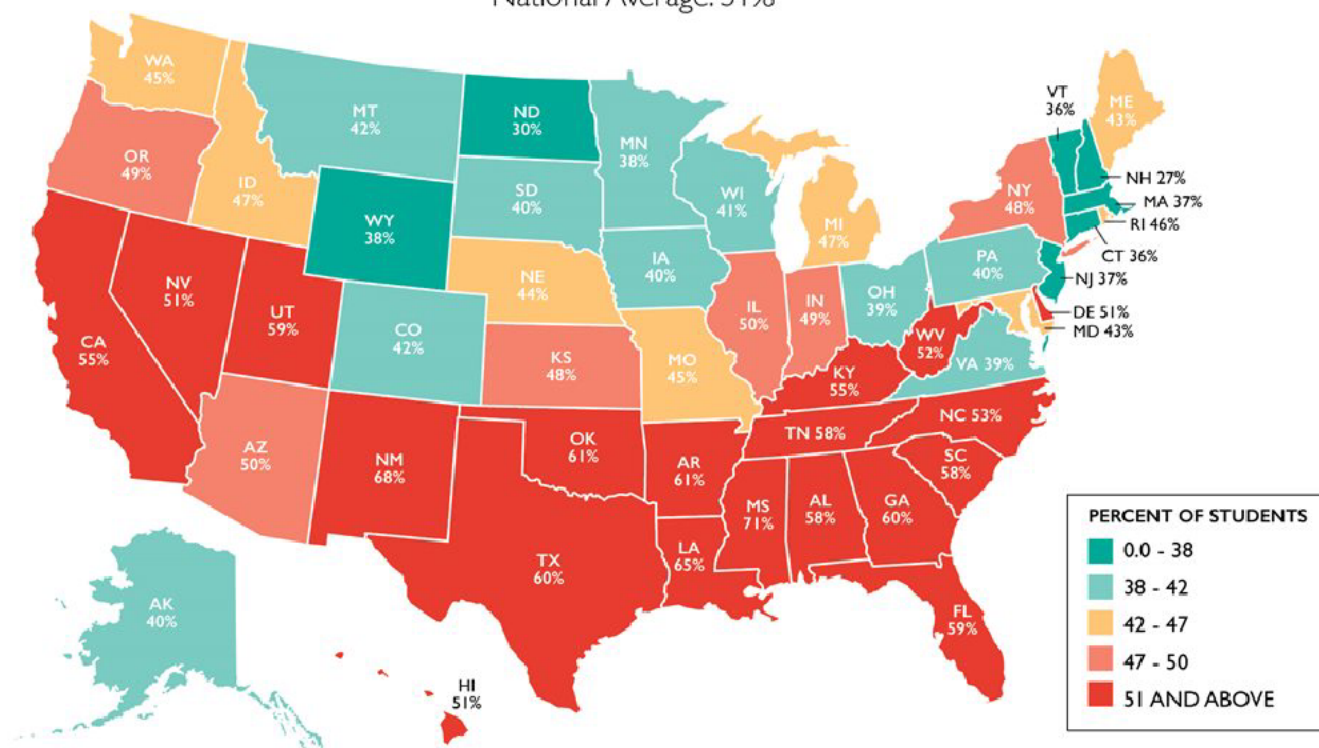
We are thankful to the "Learn Shop Inc." foundation for its donation and its permanent interest of helping dispossessed people in many countries.

Miguel Carbo-Benites
Consul General



PERCENT OF LOW INCOME STUDENTS IN U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2013

National Average: 51%



SOUTHERN EDUCATION FOUNDATION | SOUTHERNEDUCATION.ORG

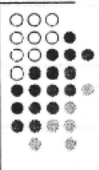
Data Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data

Drive for Supplies Briefing

Kevin and Louise Newcomer
Founders

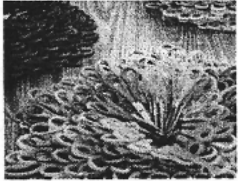

Katie C. Rossini
MCPS Student Leadership Coordinator

January 20, 2016



Objectives



- Share background information
- Describe logistics
- Provide data and next steps
- Answer questions

Drive for Supplies Overview

2015 MCPS Moment
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mainstory/story.aspx?id=433631>

2014 MCPS Moment
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/mainstory/story.aspx?id=373376>

Drive for Supplies Schools

- 50 elementary schools
- 21 middle schools
- 10 high schools



Drive for Supplies Corps

- 65 middle and high school students
 - 23 MCPS schools represented
- Next Step: Cabin John and Rock Terrace Extended School Year (ESY) students



Drive for Supplies Data

| Year | Pounds | Volunteers | Hours |
|------|----------|------------|-------|
| 2015 | 13,298.1 | 66 | 1,320 |
| 2014 | 24,594 | 274 | 2,466 |
| 2013 | 16,010 | 168 | 2,096 |
| 2012 | 13,183 | 299 | 1,038 |
| 2011 | 11,946 | 138 | 790 |
| 2010 | 25,184 | 293 | 1,754 |
| 2009 | 14,480 | 208 | 1,036 |
| 2008 | 15,021 | 91 | 626 |
| 2007 | 9,016 | 58 | 417 |
| 2006 | 5,718 | 103 | 427 |
| 2005 | 9,784 | 124 | 961 |
| 2004 | 7,023 | 24 | 194 |
| 2003 | 5,594 | 12 | N/A |
| 2002 | 5,320 | 14 | N/A |



This e-mail message has been approved for distribution by Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer; and Dr. Andrew M. Zuckerman, acting chief operating officer. No hard copy will be provided.



ACTION REQUIRED BY: May 29, 2015

Office of the Chief Academic Officer
Office of the Chief Operating Officer
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

May 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM

To: All Principals

From: Maria V. Navarro, Chief Academic Officer 
Andrew M. Zuckerman, Acting Chief Operating Officer 

Subject: ACTION: Drive for Supplies Project

Summary

- Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), in collaboration with Learn Shop, Inc., an organization that collects and distributes new and reusable school supplies, will participate again this year in *Drive for Supplies*, the end-of-the-school-year locker and backpack clean-out project. The collected supplies are donated to international and local nonprofit groups, including MCPS.
- This memorandum serves as notice that all schools and alternative programs are expected to participate in the *Drive for Supplies* end-of-the-school-year program. The School Energy and Recycling Team, Department of Facilities Management, will present a recognition award to the elementary, middle, and high school that collects the most supplies.
- Attached is a *Drive for Supplies* checklist (Attachment A) with instructions for your designated coordinator, along with promotional flyers and announcements for your coordinator's use (Attachments B and C).
- Participation in *Drive for Supplies* is an excellent opportunity to emphasize our MCPS recycling program, examine recycling in your school, support your local community, and remind staff members and students about the benefits of donating to those in need.
- As this project emphasizes environmental concerns and social responsibility, you may find it appropriate to involve science and social studies teachers, student government advisors, honor societies, and your student service learning and recycling coordinators.

Action

- Please designate a *Drive for Supplies* coordinator to organize groups of students and staff members to help with collecting supplies. This role is aligned with the responsibilities of the school recycling coordinator, but individual schools may appoint any staff member to fulfill the responsibilities, which include registering his/her name and school, organizing student teams to collect, sort, box, and label usable supplies, and reporting the number of boxes collected.
- Please ensure that your designated *Drive for Supplies* coordinator registers your school online by **Friday, May 29, 2015**. Collection boxes, tape, and labels for collecting gently used supplies will be delivered to all schools. The filled boxes are scheduled for picked up between Monday, June 22 and Monday, July 6, 2015.

Questions

- Please contact Ms. Katie C. Rossini, coordinator, Student Leadership Office, Department of Student Services, at 301-444-8620 or via e-mail.

MVN:AMZ:kcr

Attachments


Copy to:

Executive Staff
Ms. Berner
Mrs. Collins
Ms. Dawson
Mrs. Lazor
Ms. Rossini
School Administrative Secretaries
Mr. Song
Dr. Steinberg
Mr. Taylor
Mrs. Cuttitta
Mr. Koutsos
Mr. Prouty



“Drive for Supplies”

Checklist for the School *Drive for Supplies* Coordinator

- No later than **May 29, 2015**, register your school and contact person at the “Adult Contact and School” link at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studentaffairs/sao/supplies/d4smcps.shtm>. There is no user ID required; just click on “Request.”
- The *Drive for Supplies* coordinator should collaborate with the School Energy and Recycling Team coordinator, science teachers, social studies teachers, student service learning coordinator, and student government group, etc., to emphasize to students the socioeconomic and environmental aspects of this project. 
- The Department of Materials Management will send boxes, labels, and tape to all schools at the beginning of June. The boxes will be shipped to the “Drive for Supplies Coordinator.” Additional packing supplies can be obtained by sending an e-mail request to Mr. Orlando (Lanny) Taylor at Orlando_L_Taylor@mcpsmd.org.
- Organize groups of students and staff members to help with this important effort. Schedule a day (or days) for each class, team, or grade level to clean out their lockers, backpacks, and desks.
- Advertise this collection/recycling project to all students. To increase the awareness of this effort, consider using PA announcements, PTA newsletters, posting signage, or creating PSAs (short movies).
- Assign students to be in the halls collecting the supplies.
- Ask students to tear out and recycle used pages of composition and spiral notebooks before donating.
- Assign students to stand by both recycling bins and trash cans to ensure that no usable supplies are being thrown away and that recyclable items are not going into trash containers.

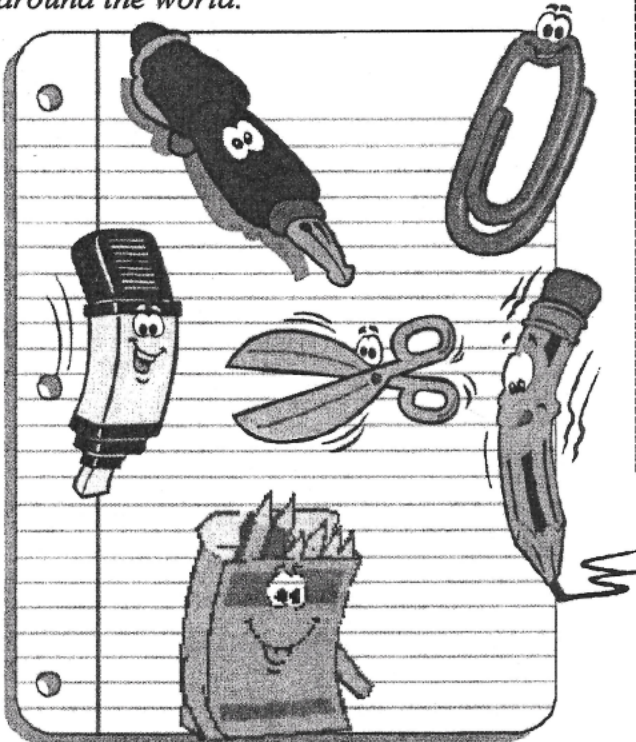
Filled boxes from classes and hallways should be delivered to a designated “processing site” that will—

- check that supplies are in usable condition (the coordinator should determine the usefulness or condition of the items collected);
 - check that all used pages in composition/spiral notebooks have been torn out and recycled. (Please check carefully—this is extremely important);
 - sort items into similar categories and box accordingly; and
 - seal boxes, indicate content on boxes, and affix the provided labels (fill in your school name).
- Give *Student Service Learning* (SSL) credit forms to secondary students who are collecting, sorting, boxing, and labeling supplies during non-instructional time.
 - IMPORTANT**—No later than **June 19, 2015**, click on the “Report Your School’s/Office’s Collection” link at the following address to report how many boxes need to be picked up from your school. There is no user ID required, just click on “request.”
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/studentaffairs/sao/supplies/d4smcps.shtm#report>
 - Stack boxes in clear view near the front entrance inside the school and tape a note to the main office door reporting the location and number of boxes for pick up. The Department of Materials Management will pick up boxes from schools between June 22 and July 6, 2015.
 - If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Katie C. Rossini, coordinator, Student Leadership Office, at 301-444-8620 or via e-mail.

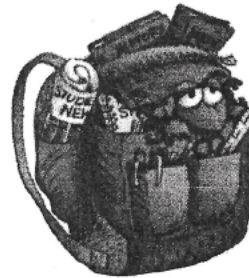
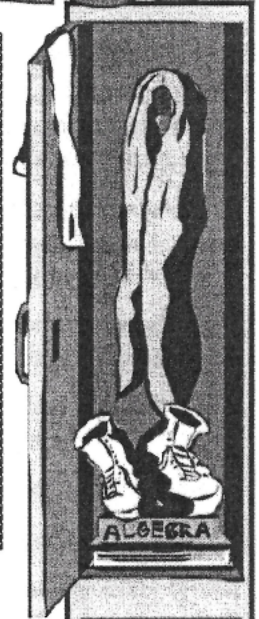
REMINDER: DO NOT SEND CLOTHING.

Drive for Supplies

Helping students in need both locally and around the world.




Clean out your desk and donate your used, but usable, supplies!



clean out the old backpack

Recycling Emphasis



Recycle items that can't be donated!



clean out the cubbies and closets!

A Community Service Project for MCPS

