

ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS
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Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Note: The Child Internet Protection Act prohibits the use of children's last names on our school system website.



NMS Green Team members are outsmarting waste with a program that takes material that would otherwise end up in area landfills and turns it into products sold at retail stores. From left are eight-graders Rikki, Hannah, David Johnson, Logan, Josh, Anna, and Brian.

NMS GREEN TEAM OUTSMARTS WASTE

The Norris Middle School Green Team is joining the “upcycling” movement and outsmarting waste.

“Upcycling is taking things that would be thrown away as trash and turning them into useful items,” says Kathy Mohrman, who works with the group as part of the school’s leadership program.

“Even better than keeping stuff out of the waste stream is that the NMS Green team earns money for doing it,” she said.

Mohrman says area residents can make the Earth a better place and help the Green Team earn extra money by joining the upcycling movement.

TerraCycle, a recycling firm that has trademarked the slogan, “Outsmart Waste,” uses the material collected to make products it markets through “big box” retailers like Kmart, Walmart, and Home Depot. The firm was founded in 2001 by a 19-year-old Princeton University freshman.

The company’s website, www.terracycle.net, claims more than 8.6 million people have filled more than 1.2 billion containers, generating \$539,808 for charitable organizations like the NMS Green Team.

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“Those who want to help can simply look for the brown bins with the TerraCycle logo in front of the Betty Anne Jolly Norris Community Library and near the bulletin board in front of the Norris Post Office,” Mohrman said. “The Green Team will sort the items and send them to TerraCycle to be turned into useful products,” she said.

TerraCycle lists the partners whose items can be upcycled on its company website. A partial list of items, which should be cleaned before drop-off, includes Capri Sun and Honest Kids juice pouches; Elmer’s glue sticks, Scotch tape dispensers, Huggies packaging; Oscar Mayer Lunchable wrappers; Scott bath tissue, towels, napkins, and flushable wipe wrappers; empty Neosporin ointment tubes; old cell phones; and wrappers from Frito-Lay brand chip products and Mars/Wrigley candies.

The student organization receives from a few cents up to a quarter for each item that is turned in.

Mohrman says the students focus on activities that encourage people to “go green,” becoming more environmentally aware and taking steps to conserve resources.

“Since the beginning of the school year, the Green Team has continued expanding the recycling program at NMS,” she said. “Students participated in teambuilding activities to strengthen skills at the start of the year. They also are participating in activities to help students learn about conserving resources and respecting the Earth.”

NMS is one of four middle schools in Anderson County Schools. The system serves 7000 students, who also attend nine elementary schools, two high schools, a career and technical center, a K-12 alternative school, and a pre-school/Head Start program. The system also provides an adult education program.

ACS employs more than 1000 teachers, education assistants, and support and administrative staff and operates on an annual budget of approximately \$64 million in local, state, and federal funds.

For more information, visit www.acs.ac or call 463-2800, ext. 2860.

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