



ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to inform you that your student will be going on a field trip to the Athens-Clarke County Recycling Facility, Landfill, and Composting Facility on _____.

This educational experience provides students with valuable insights into recycling, waste management, and environmental stewardship. To ensure a safe and enjoyable trip, we have outlined important safety precautions and guidelines below.

Recycling Center Safety Precautions:

- **Safety Gear:** All participants must wear the provided safety gear, including safety glasses, high-visibility vests, and hard hats. We must ensure that hard hats fit securely. Therefore, hairstyles must not interfere with proper fit. Students with updos will need to wear their hair down or pulled low to comply with this requirement.
- **Attire:** Participants must wear attire appropriate for a visit to a working facility. No loose-fitting clothing like skirts, ties or capes. Tie back long hair and remove dangling jewelry.
- **Footwear:** Comfortable, closed-toe shoes are required. Please do not allow your child to wear sandals, flip-flops, slides, or Crocs, as there may be broken glass on the ground. They will not be able to go on the tour of the Recycling Center with open toe shoes.
- **Facility Layout:** The recycling center is a multi-level open facility with several flights of stairs and is not handicap accessible; however, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate all participants. Classroom is handicap accessible. Students who have a fear of heights may find the indoor portion of the tour uncomfortable.

Landfill and Compost Safety Precautions:

- **Outdoor Tour:** The landfill and compost tour will be conducted entirely outdoors. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather. In the event of rain, the tour will be rescheduled.
- **Odor Awareness:** The composting facility may have a strong, concentrated soil smell. While some may find this distracting, it is important to remind students that it is not necessarily unpleasant, just strong.
- **Wildlife:** Participants should be aware that there may be wildlife present, including grasshoppers, ants, flies, vultures, rats, and roaches.
- **Restroom Facilities:** Please note that the composting facility and landfill do not have traditional restrooms. There is a composting bathroom (similar to a porta potty) available at the Outdoor Classroom. Please plan accordingly.
- **Water Availability:** There is no running water at the facility, so ensure that your child is prepared.

We appreciate your cooperation in preparing your child for this exciting field trip. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

At your disposal,

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