

WISCONSIN

Section 1: School Demographics

School Name

Belleville High School

Principal's name

Nate Perry

School Address

625 W Church St
Belleville, Wisconsin 53508
United States

[Map It](#)

Number of students (total enrollment)

260

Lowest grade

1

Highest grade

12

This school is:

- A public school

Please explain:

Number of students by grade level

Elementary or lower	Middle grades	High or upper school
396	146	260

Number (or percent) of students eligible for free or reduced lunch

Free lunch	Reduced lunch	Neither free nor reduced lunch
389	20	393

Section 2: Background about school lunch

How many students buy lunch in the school's cafeteria?

51 to 70 percent

How many minutes do students have to eat lunch?

33

Are students allowed to eat lunch in rooms/buildings other than the cafeteria?

Yes

Are students allowed to leave campus for lunch?

Yes

Which students are allowed to leave campus for lunch?

anyone

Are there any times during the school year when breakfast or lunch is free to all students?

No

Please explain:

Who controls the portions and servings students receive?

Cafeteria staff plate lunch items, students do not choose serving size

Please explain:

Does the school serve set meals (e.g. chicken nuggets with potatoes and carrots) or can students choose what they want from the menu?

The students can pick which sides they would like, if any

Please explain:

Are fruits/vegetables required with every meal?

Yes, fruits/vegetables are included in the price

In your teams' opinion, are students content with the meal options at school?

No, somewhat dissatisfied

Please explain:

food quality has been an issue as well as portion size

What type of utensils do students use to eat?

Reusable utensils, such as metal

Please explain:

What type of plates/trays are used to serve the food?

Reusable plates or trays, such as plastic

Please explain:

Section 3: Food waste activities at the school

Does the school use any of the following waste reduction activities?

- Recess occurs before lunchtime

Please explain:

Has the school performed a food waste audit previously?

No, a waste audit has not been considered

Please explain:

Which of the following generates the majority of food waste at your school?

Student food waste

Please explain:

On average, do you think food waste is an issue at your school?

Yes, somewhat important

Section 4: School Waste Data Form

School name

Belleville High School

Date of audit

03/21/2017

Students in attendance on day of audit

111

Numbers of lunches served on day of audit

81

Menu served on day of audit

Classic Cafe Pancakes with Fruit Topping Scrambled Egg Breakfast Potato Casserole

Pizza Parlor Pepperoni Cheese Specialty Pizza

Fresh Choices Entree Salad & Dinner Rolls Fresh Made Sandwich Located in the Pepsi Cooler

The Fruit and Vegetable Bar is served with all lunch options.

Waste type: Unopened food

Total net weight of unopened food

Notes regarding unopened food

We had no unopened food collected during our audit.

Waste type: Food waste

A: Bin/Bag Number	B: Weight of empty bin	C: Total weight	D: Net weight (Total - Empty)	E: Picture taken of the bin? (Y/N)	F: Percent full
Bad number One	9lbs	24.3lbs	15.3lbs	no	63%

Total net weight of food waste

15

Waste type: Liquid waste

A: Bin/Bag Number	B: Weight of empty bin	C: Total weight	D: Net weight (Total - Empty)	E: Picture taken of the bin? (Y/N)	F: Percent full
Bin number two	2.5lbs	4.3lbs	1.8lbs	no	41.8%

Total net weight of liquid waste

2

Waste type: Recycling

A: Bin/Bag Number	B: Weight of empty bin	C: Total weight	D: Net weight (Total - Empty)	E: Picture taken of the bin? (Y/N)	F: Percent full
Bin number three	2.5lbs	3.4lbs	.9lbs	no	26.5%

Total net weight of recycling

1

Waste type: Other (Landfill)

A: Bin/Bag Number	B: Weight of empty bin	C: Total weight	D: Net weight (Total - Empty)	E: Picture taken of the bin? (Y/N)	F: Percent full
Bin number four	9lbs	14.8lbs	5.8lbs	no	39.2%

Total net weight of other wastes (landfill)

6

Notes regarding food, recycling, and other (landfill) wastes

We only used one bin/bag per type of waste due to the small number of students we have in our school.

Describe the process you used to establish clear guidelines for students to follow to sort their food waste.

Our group set up each bin in the corner of the lunchroom where the students usually dump their trash and put away their trays. Before people started to throw things away we made our announcement about what we were doing and how it would work. Students asked questions and we walked them through the process that would be sorting their waste. We used the signs that were given to us to clearly show the students what waste went in each bin. We then stood with the bins to make sure that students followed the signs. We had them hold up their items before putting them in any bin, and we told them which bin to put their waste in. This minimized confusion and helped ensure the accuracy of the data we provided above.

Upload photos

- [Slide10.JPG](#)
- [Slide9.JPG](#)
- [Slide8.JPG](#)
- [Slide7.JPG](#)
- [Slide6.JPG](#)
- [Slide5.JPG](#)
- [Slide4.JPG](#)
- [Slide3.JPG](#)
- [Slide2.JPG](#)
- [Slide1.JPG](#)
- [Slide18.JPG](#)
- [Slide17.JPG](#)
- [Slide16.JPG](#)
- [Slide15.JPG](#)
- [Slide14.JPG](#)
- [Slide13.JPG](#)
- [Slide12.JPG](#)
- [Slide11.JPG](#)
- [IMG_0384.JPG](#)
- [IMG_0383.JPG](#)
- [IMG_0458.JPG](#)
- [IMG_0457.JPG](#)
- [IMG_0456.JPG](#)
- [IMG_0385.JPG](#)
- [IMG_0373.JPG](#)

Link to files unable to upload

Would your team be interested in being part of the food waste panel at Nationals?

No

Section 5: Critical Thinking

Based on your observations during the food waste audit, make three recommendations to your School Board to reduce food waste.

Our school could cut down on waste by providing less trash producing items and more items that can be reused or recycled

We could have our school lunches contain fewer wrappers on food products. This would cut down on nonrecyclable plastics in landfills.

A simple way to reduce waste and increase longevity in communities is to set up donations.

Uneaten or unopened food can be easily donated to shelters in the community like through our town's food pantry.

Get the word out about waste.

At the beginning of this experiment, we didn't really think about the waste we produced until we were forced to capture it and weigh it. If school implement a monthly or even bi-monthly food audit, waste would probably see a decrease just because students would be aware of the problem. Being more knowledgeable would allow students to take this issue into their own hands.

Justify a school's role in teaching children about food waste and the impact food waste has on school budgets, the environment, and hunger in the community.

School's role in waste education

Schools should be responsible for teaching kids about the amount of waste that they produce because students spend 13 years in school, it is one of the most influential part of a child's life, so if good waste reducing habits are instilled in school, then the student can carry these on throughout their lives.

Impact of food waste

School budgets pay for the food that is served in lunchrooms and when students take lunch and food that they don't eat, this wastes resources that could be used elsewhere.

The impact of food waste in the environment is that we use water and other resources to grow crops and animals that we then waste. This degrades the land and can cause issues with flooding, landslides, and other natural disasters.

Food waste also affects the hunger in the community by not allowing unopened food to be given to those in need. Opened food that people throw away cannot be given to the food pantry or the hungry, so it just goes in the trash. Stopping the waste of food products would allow for the unopened food to be given to the community.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has set a goal to reduce food waste by 50% by the year 2030. Based upon your experience conducting this food waste audit, will the US meet this goal? Explain why or why not.

Ability to achieve food waste decrease by 2030

Looking at the statistics, since the year 2013, the trend in the amount of food waste produced in the US had been on the decline, from almost 8 million tonnes to about 6.5 million tonnes. With this trend, it would be feasible to have the US's food waste down to only 4 million tonnes within the next thirteen years.

Our food audit alone shows that our school is well below the average of waste produced per day per person, so if schools across the US can implement this idea, then it would be extremely easy to reach the goal.

Detail two or three findings or observations that surprised you. Describe how conducting this food waste audit has impacted you and your team, and the way you think about food in America.

Surprises

We were surprised by how many people ate all of their food. When we thought of school lunch, we thought of kids dumping the majority of it into the garbage, but that wasn't the case with this audit. This made us realize how much food waste is being saved by just simply eating what you're given, in turn this made us think about how it's really important to only take what food you are going to eat. We were also surprised by how well kids knew what was recycling and what wasn't. This isn't necessarily something our school teaches and many people don't really care to figure out what can be recycled and what can't. This made us appreciate all of the things that we are able to recycle in order to help the Earth.

What is one obstacle your team faced during the audit and how did you work to resolve it? If the issue went unresolved, what steps would you take to reevaluate your approach?

Our team struggled the most with time

Because it was our spring break soon, we struggled with having enough time to get everything we needed together while still having enough time to perform the audit itself.

However we resolved this by everyone pitching in to help set up the bins, print off signs, make announcements to the School Board and the student body, and do the audit.

If we hadn't had enough time to pull everything together, we could have done the audit at a different date, but this would have caused more issues because a majority of our school was leaving for a school trip.

We are very glad that we were able to pull everything together in time and do the audit with our whole team there.

Bonus Question

Should all schools be required to do food waste audits on a regular basis? Why or why not?

Support your answer.

Monthly or bimonthly food audits

We had actually made this a suggestion of ours for our School Board to help with the decrease of waste in our school. We thought that, like some of our other activities in school, it could be a competition to see how little waste we could produce. This would make the audit fun and something that students could be excited about doing, which would, in turn, yield better results and participation. Also doing regular food audits would allow the School Board and our meal providers to evaluate the food that it being uneaten or unopened and possibly make a change. This would make students enjoy lunch better so they eat more of the food they are given which could cut down on food waste.

All in all a waste audit on a regular basis would be a fun and rewarding way to teach students about recycling and other ways to deal with waste outside of the classroom. They would get help deciding what goes where and they would be able to take this knowledge home and start to better their waste management at home. Even if just a few students did this, that could severely cut down on the waste produced by our community. If schools across the country did this, the US could be down to the 4 million ton waste goal in no time.

Future Work

We are planning on going down to the intermediate school in our district to talk to the students there about waste and what they can do to reduce their own waste.

It was brought to our attention by our wonderful lunch ladies that while the high school is fairly good at not wasting too much, the younger kids could use some help understanding the consequences of wasting as much as they do.