



**THE PROJECT: COMPOSTING LIONS / LIONES DE COMPOSTAJE**

In April 2023, the Linné Lions reinstated their composting program following a pandemic hiatus with new guides and educational resources. The school welcomed over 50 migrant families throughout the school year and needed to ensure the information could be effectively shared with new students that only spoke Spanish. The Composting Lions / Liones de Compostaje project highlights the importance of composting with student-made posters, in-person educational events for the school community, and a [new dual language educational video](#) featuring students talking about why composting is important, the life cycle of food scraps, how to properly sort lunch waste to have a zero-waste lunch, and how families can compost at home.

**Project Type:** Composting  
**Students Involved:** 213  
**Staff Involved:** 3  
**Location:** Chicago  
**Grade Levels Involved:** 4th-6th  
**Number of Students Impacted:** 690



A unique and creative idea we integrated into the project was to take the video one step further to teach students how they can compost at home and to get their families involved. We hope to normalize the practice of composting.

- Lisa Sanzenbacher



**PROCESS**

Working in teams, more than 200 students in grades four through six created educational posters that are currently hung in the cafeteria to provide daily reminders of proper composting procedures. To showcase the video and art work, the school hosted two events including a pep rally for students and an artistic and educational showcase where parents were invited to see their student’s artwork. Parents from the Linné Green Team as well as staff from the City of Chicago presented to other parents on how to compost at home, and have parents sign up to enter a raffle to win a countertop compost bin to help partake in the City’s free composting program.

**OUTCOMES & IMPACTS**

The project produced over 60 high-quality informational posters that help students better understand how to compost in the cafeteria, and the information was made accessible to all by being presented in both English and Spanish. Their work prompted discussions on the importance of composting, inspiring some students to incorporate composting in their own homes. Moving forward, the video will be shown at the beginning of the school year and again during Earth Month celebrations in April. They anticipate sharing the video in individual classes, during larger student gatherings, and have even considered sharing it online to individuals as homework.

