To close our Government unit, 5th graders learned about laws that addressed the issues of single use plastic bags. After learning about the impact plastic bags have had on their community and around the world, students developed “Action Plans” to address these problems.
Dealing with the impact of plastic bags in our community

By: Helen, Ariel, and Emily

Fifth grade students created Google Slide Decks demonstrating what they learned about the issues of single use plastic bags. Students included facts they learned about ways to reduce use of single use plastic bags.
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How are plastic bags impacting our communities:

First, why we think plastic bags are a problem in our community is they can kill or even injure animals. Also, sometimes animals mistaken them for food! More than 700 species has been stuck in plastic! In addition, plastic can even get into streams, creeks, or even rivers. Also, communities are kinda struggling with getting trash out of the oceans! This project is going to try to indicate to you to stop only using single use bags. If we can reuse them these problems can be dealt with in our community. So I hope that you and me can help reuse plastic bags in our community.

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How we can stop plastic bags from impacting our communities

Of course, we can always stop using plastic when ever we want to because it’s something good to-do! Being apart of not trying to impact our communities with plastic bags are one of the most awesome things you can do! You can always reuse them and not throw them everywhere like on the roads, beaches, and other random places! In addition, communities are kinda struggling with getting trash out of the oceans, but some people go to the beach just to help clean it!

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Examples Of Reusing Plastic Bags!

Examples, of things that you can do in your community to help reuse bags are making shirts out of them [Make alternative grocery bags]. Also, you can even email a teacher to mail a letter to your County Executive [Find my state/legislative or national/congressional elected officials].

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Dear Senator Sarah Elfreth,

If you remember, My name is Tyler Cannady. I'm a fifth grader at Edgewater elementary. You gave me and my mom a tour of the State House and the tunnels under it. If you don't remember it's okay.

My school is doing a project on how to reuse plastic bags. One of the choices was to "send an email to an elected official about the need for a plastic bag law or ideas to improve any existing bag laws".

Plastic bag usage in Edgewater is a big issue. They break down into tiny toxic particles that contaminate the soil and waterways and enter the food chain when animals accidentally ingest them.

A few years ago, I used to always go to my Father's school in Upper Marlboro. He always told me about the dangers of plastic bags. I have seen a lot of issues in my neighborhood (Londontowne) as well as the waterways near his school. This is causing a lot of issues in local areas, (especially in the water), and I think this is a perfect time to deal with this issue.

I immediately thought of contacting you because you are thoughtful and caring to all individuals including children. I understand if you can't help because the elections just occurred and you have a lot on your plate.

But if you can please email me back so we can start brainstorming ideas for reusing plastic bags.

I hope to talk with you soon,

Sincerely,

Tyler Cannady, Peyton C. and Noah D.
Fifth grade students created We Videos demonstrating what they learned about the issues of single use plastic bags and the negative effects they have on the environment.