



## Bay Area Green Business Program

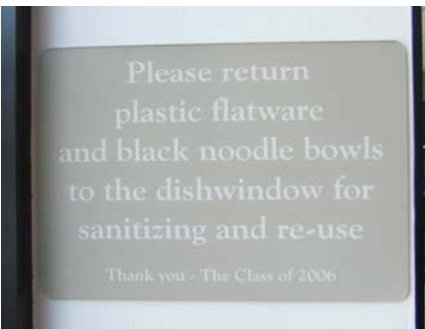
Environmental Values At Work



Recycling bins are conveniently placed next to garbage cans



A water conserving pre-rinse sprayer replaced an old one



Reusable dishes have replaced disposable ones

## Castilleja School

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castilleja.org  
Certification Date: July 2007

It is befitting that Castilleja, a girls preparatory school, received its Green Business certification the same year the school is commemorating its centennial. “We are celebrating the past and looking to the future and becoming a more sustainable organization is part of that vision,” says Nanci Kauffman, Assistant Head of School. The school developed a “global initiative” to educate students on how their actions affect the planet and to learn social responsibility. The initiative also included bringing in well known speakers, including Al Gore, to discuss climate change. These speakers challenged the school to actively make positive environmental changes.

The certification process was another way for Castilleja to move toward sustainability. They had already installed energy efficient lighting, LED exit signs and computer monitors, and were saving water by using drip irrigation on their drought-tolerant plants. Recycling containers were also set up throughout campus and glassware and reusable dishes used instead of disposables in the lunchroom. “We knew these things were the ‘low hanging fruit,’ but the certification process has pushed us to set the bar higher,” says Steve Taffee, Director of Technology and certification lead. The school is now in the process of replacing an aging and inefficient boiler, installing solar panels on the new gymnasium, and making their public events carbon-neutral.

“We need to set the example for our students. We know we will have a lasting impact on them as they go out into the work force, and we hope they will bring a new sensibility to the idea of sustainable commerce,” says Taffee.

For more information on Castilleja’s green efforts contact Steve Taffee.