



# Singing River Academy

## Gautier, Mississippi



### *"Microplastics—Small But Deadly"*

**Mission Statement:** To raise awareness about plastic pollution in our local waters and Gulf Coast.

#### **Microplastic Research:**

1. Students collected tap water samples and filtered water.
2. Students observed filtered water under a microscope. We documented what types of plastics were found in sample.
3. We documented our plastic findings in our Investigation Data Folder.

Our students partnered with Mississippi State University, Dr. Sparks, and his graduate students to calculate distance from water treatment to our different houses and determine relationships from our tap water samples. Students found a total of 2,180\* microplastic pieces in their samples—consisting of plastic fibers (1,772), fragments (321), films (51), and beads (36).

\*preliminary data that still needs to be analyzed for quality control

#### **Our Solution:**

Presently, recycling bins have been placed strategically around the campus and classrooms, so students/staff may place recyclable waste in its proper place. Each week, members of our SRA Student Council will collect bins and empty bins (each Friday) in a large Waste Pro dumpster. The empty recycle bins will then be placed back where they were originally located for the following week's plastic waste. Our school has also recently installed a water purifier fountain, so students and staff may easily refill their water bottles instead of using another plastic water bottle.