

# School Nutrition News From MDE

October 19, 2018



The information in this document helps support Goal 4, Strategy 4.1, of [MDE's Top 10 in 10 Initiative](#) by helping to ensure students receive important nutritional resources to help them learn and grow.

To celebrate all the work we do year-round and National School Lunch Week, staff in the Office of Health and Nutrition Services were given the opportunity to enjoy school lunch with a student or adult they love. This was a great opportunity for our staff to experience school lunch from the student point of view, have great conversations about school lunch, and celebrate all the hard work School Nutrition Professionals do every day to provide kids with healthy, wholesome meals. We want to thank all the districts and schools that our staff were able to visit, your hospitality is greatly appreciated. Please enjoy all the pictures of our staff in honor of National School Lunch Week 2018.

Staff from the Food Distribution unit have a very important role in monitoring the supply chain to make sure nutritious food is available for the Whole Child. Every day, Food Distribution staff work hard to keep food moving to schools both directly, through the National School Lunch Program's USDA Foods in Schools Program and indirectly, via Food Banks for use in school pantries and backpack programs.

Along with their work related to federal programs, Food Distribution staff have also been spending countless hours working on the *10 Cent A Meal for School Kids and Farms Program*.

The program provides schools with match incentive funding up to 10 cents per meal to purchase and serve Michigan-grown produce.

A couple of the key staff behind the successful launch of the 10 Cent A Meal Program enjoyed lunch with their sons to celebrate National School Lunch Week.



Liana Bennett, a Consultant in the Food Distribution unit, and her son, Ryan, enjoyed lunch at Lansing Catholic High School, Lansing, MI. Liana loves school lunch because she knows her son is getting a healthy, complete meal during the school day.



Jaime Malnar, a Consultant in the Food Distribution unit, and her son, Trystan, a kindergartner at Whitehills Elementary in East Lansing, MI enjoyed a milk cheers together during her lunch visit.



Jaime also enjoyed lunch with her son, Rhys, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grader at Whitehills Elementary. Jaime loves school lunch because it helps all kids to be physically, socially, and emotionally ready to learn.

For staff in the School Nutrition Programs (SNP) "Going to Lunch" has a very different meaning from what you might think. They collectively watch thousands of students receive and eat healthy school meals every year as part of their day to day work.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has a very prescribed Administrative Review process. These reviews provide a wonderful opportunity for SNP staff to support and guide school nutrition professionals and other school administrators on all things school lunch. This year alone we will be visiting over 300 public, private, and charter schools to conduct reviews. That is a lot of lunches!

In the pictures below, you will see just a few members of the amazing team.



Natalee Mickelson, Department Analyst in the School Nutrition Programs unit, enjoyed lunch with her sister, Amanda, at Herbison Woods Elementary in Dewitt, MI. Natalee loves school lunch because it allows students to fuel their minds and bodies. Children are better equipped to learn when good nutrition is part of their day.



Kari Day, Department Analyst in the School Nutrition Programs unit, celebrated with her son, Sawyer, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Grader at Cornell Elementary in Okemos, MI. Kari loves school lunch because she knows children are fed delicious food and have access to multiple fruits and vegetables every day.



Kari also enjoyed the nacho lunch with her younger son, Charlie, a kindergartner at Cornell Elementary. Lots to Love!



Heather Holland, Department Analyst in the School Nutrition Programs unit, went to lunch with her daughter, Lucy, at Dublin Elementary in Walled Lake, MI. Heather loves school lunch because it inspires children to try new foods that they may not be exposed to at home.



Heather also took the opportunity to eat with her son, Jack, and Julie Rader, Food Service Director for Walled Lake Schools, at Clifford Smart Middle School. Look at those lunches!!

To properly celebrate school lunch, we also must highlight our colleagues in the Fiscal and Administrative Services Team (FAST). They work extremely hard to ensure the Office of Health and Nutrition Services is getting meal reimbursement payments out to program sponsors, as well as conducting all the fiscal monitoring that is required by the USDA. we mentioned that staff in the School Nutrition Programs unit will conduct over 300 reviews this school year. Each one of those program reviews also includes a Resource Management and Procurement Review that is conducted by staff in the FAST unit. They spend countless hours reviewing general ledgers, school meal reports in the Financial Information Database, and other financial documentation required by our sponsors.

A couple members of FAST took a break from all the dollars and cents to celebrate National School Lunch Week with their children.



Aimee Haapala, Financial Manager in the Fiscal and Administrative Services unit, enjoyed lunch with her son, Eli, a kindergartner at Spencer Elementary in Brighton, MI. She is proud to have worked with Child Nutrition Programs for the past 16 years, both as a Food Service Director and now in a supporting role to school districts. Aimee loves school lunch because it provides access to healthy meals for thousands of students every day.



Wendy Crowley, Department Specialist in the FAST unit, enjoyed lunch with her daughter, Grace, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Kinawa 5-6 School in Okemos, MI. Wendy loves school lunch because it exposes kids to new foods and gives them healthy choices every day.



Wendy also joined her son, Nolan, a 3rd grade at the Okemos Public Montessori at Central in Okemos, MI.

The school lunch experience starts earlier than most may realize. Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), Head Start, and other early childhood classrooms across Michigan serve their students school lunches every day. Staff from both the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) unit and the School Nutrition Programs unit collaborate to provide the best guidance to sponsors that serve those meals.

In 2017, the USDA updated the CACFP meal patterns. The intent was to provide our youngest students in early childhood classrooms access to more fresh fruits and vegetables, more whole grains, and more food with less added sugar and saturated fat. The meal pattern changes also updated the requirements for meals served in day care centers and day care homes.



Lynn Cavett, Supervisor of the Child and Adult Care Food Program, took the opportunity to celebrate National School Lunch Week with husband, Marc Cavett, at Carman-Ainsworth's Randels Elementary in Flint Township, MI. The Cavetts have a lifelong connection with Carman-Ainsworth, as they are Carman-Ainsworth Alumni. Marc is currently the Building and Grounds Supervisor; however, he started his career as a fifteen-year-old mowing lawns for the district just a mere 43 years ago.



Rick Callahan, Principal at Randels Elementary, joined Marc and Lynn for this special lunch!

The Office of Health and Nutrition Services (OHNS) was renamed in 2017 after Diane Golzynski was hired as Director to lead the units that oversee the Child Nutrition Programs and School Health and Safety for all MDE. In late 2017, Diane convened her management team to develop a mission statement for the office. After a few days of brainstorming and

feedback from all staff in OHNS, we are happy to share with you the mission statement for OHNS:

*Improve health, enhance nutrition, and promote safety to increase student achievement and well-being for all of Michigan's citizens.*

The mission statement suits us well as the next big project for OHNS is to lead the Whole Child Approach for MDE. Diane, Phil, and the rest of the team are excited for this opportunity and you can expect great things to come from our work.



Phil Chase, Assistant Director for the Office of Health and Nutrition Services, had lunch with his daughter, Sophia, at Elliot Elementary in Holt, MI. Phil loves school lunch because there always seems to be a variety that makes kids happy and interested in trying many different items.



Every school that was visited got some National School Lunch Week swag to help with the celebration.



Diane Golzynski, the Director of the Office of Health and Nutrition Services, enjoyed lunch with her daughter, Gabby, at Resurrection School in Lansing, MI. Diane loves school lunch because it is the perfect way to role model good nutrition for kids and demonstrate the interconnection between nutrition and education goals, so every child has the same opportunity to grow into the most amazing adults they can be.

Over the years there have been a lot of changes to the School Nutrition Programs. With constant change there has been a need to update and implement different technology, as well as reimagine the best way provide customer service. Our customers must be fluent in many different web-based systems to operate their programs. Earlier this year we established a help desk position to provide our customers a faster response time to any of their questions about MEGS+, MiND, and MARS.



Kristi Packer, Department Tech in the School Nutrition Programs unit and sole member of our help desk, returned to Swartz Creek High School where she worked as a secretary to have lunch with her good friend and current school secretary, Michelle Loder. Kristi loves school lunch because it gives thousands of kids an opportunity to eat a nutritious meal every day. Sometimes, the food eaten at school is the only meal kids eat that day. School lunch is so important in the lives of children and their families.



Melanie Brummeler, Acting Supervisor of the School Nutrition Programs unit, visited Swartz Creek Schools to take the opportunity to have lunch with her son, Bear, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Gaines Elementary in Gaines, MI. She loves school lunch for two reasons. The first is the cultural rite of passage it provides. Whether you buy a school lunch or "brown bag it," everyone has a memory to share about school lunch or lunch time. The second reason she loves school lunch is simply because it is an important time of the school day where students can unwind, be social, and get nourished.

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[www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition](http://www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition)

Our collective efforts can help make Michigan a Top 10 education state in 10 years! Here are the goals and strategies: <http://mi.gov/top10in10/>

