

School Nutrition News From Special Edition

National School Lunch Week



Dr. Michael Rice, State Superintendent for Public Instruction took the opportunity to visit Ovid-Elsie Area Schools during National School Lunch Week. Shawn Pardee, Food Service Director implemented the Community Eligibility Provision in their two elementary buildings this school year and it has been very successful.



Phil Chase, Assistant Director in the Office of Health and Nutrition Services, enjoyed lunch with his son Avery, a senior at Holt High School in Holt, Michigan. Avery attends class at Holt High School in the mornings, and during the afternoons he takes precision machining courses at the Wilson Talent Center at Ingham ISD. Ingham ISD is also well-known for their culinary education program, which runs a food truck Monday through Wednesday for students.



Jaime Malnar, School District Consultant in the Food Distribution unit, supports school lunch by helping food service programs locate and procure the best foods possible for their programs. Jaime was able to enjoy lunch with her son Rhys, a 3rd grader at Whitehills Elementary School, East Lansing, MI. Rhys' favorite school lunch foods are all the fruits and vegetables.



Jaime also ate lunch with her son Trystan, a 1st grader at Whitehills Elementary School. Tristan's favorite music genre is 80s rock, and he is currently obsessed with Billy Idol.



Nikki Somerville, Program Analyst, and Stephanie Willingham, Supervisor, both in the Summer Food Service Program unit, ate a nutritious meal with the wonderful staff at Westwood Heights Schools. The district is participating in Best Food Forward (BFF). Best Food Forward is an initiative where multiple community partners are working to bring the families of two Michigan

school districts to full food security in order to improve measured outcomes in academic achievement, student behavior, mental and physical health, and economic stability. The district is providing breakfast, lunch, snacks, and suppers to students as well as providing back packs, having accessible school food pantries, and a mobile pantry to help families become food secure.



Heather Holland, Program Analyst in School Nutrition Programs, had the opportunity to eat lunch with the fabulous students, Principal Coreen Tremmel, and Food Service Director Caroline Dylewski at Siersma Elementary in Warren, Michigan. They enjoyed a strawberry yogurt smoothie, fresh banana bread, rainbow peppers, grapes, and of course milk! There were many fresh fruits and vegetables to choose from and the food quality was exceptional. Warren Consolidated Schools is one of two Best Food Forward (BFF) school districts in the state. They partner with Michigan Department of Education, Food Bank Council of Michigan, and Gleaners Community Food Bank for a long-term, Whole Child initiative to improve academic, health, and behavioral outcomes for students in the district through access to sufficient healthy food.

Being married to a school nutrition professional is not easy! Dan Holland, Assistant Principal at Clifford H. Smart Middle School in Walled Lake and husband to Heather Holland, served lunch to his middle school students in celebration of National School Lunch Week. He commented "I had a great time working with my food service team. The students enjoyed seeing me in a hairnet and apron and even thanked me later for their lunch!"



Sara Herman, a Data Specialist in the Nutrition Coordination unit, enjoyed lunch with her daughter, Nora, a kindergartner at Neff Kindergarten Center in Grand Ledge, MI. Sara's favorite school lunch was a Walking Taco and she remembers running (in high school) to the cafeteria to get in line because it was so popular it would sell out every time.



Linda Bushong, Secretary in School Nutrition Programs, had lunch with grandson, Eli, a 2nd grader at Parkview Elementary School in Charlotte, Michigan. Linda's favorite thing about school lunch is the fresh fruit that is served.



Linda also had lunch with her grandson, Oakley, a kindergartner at Galewood Early Elementary School in Charlotte, Michigan. Linda has been a vital team member of the School Nutrition Programs for a long time and it was awesome for her to have school lunch with her grandsons and meet all their friends.



Robin Scheffler, a Program Analyst in the School Nutrition Programs unit, had lunch with Lauri Grace, the Food Service Director at Carson City Crystal Area Schools. Robin's favorite thing about school lunch is all the fresh options available to students.

Caitlyn Wood, Acting Manager in the School Nutrition Programs unit, enjoyed lunch with her nephew Finn, a 2nd grader at Congress Elementary School. They had the opportunity to enjoy pizza, Caitlyn's favorite childhood school lunch. They completed the meal with a frozen fruit cup for dessert.



Natalee Mickelson, a School District Consultant 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 provides healthy meals to thousands of students every day. Her favorite memory of school lunch was socializing with friends. Natalee still feels lunch is an important time of the school day where students can relax, visit with their friends, and recharge for the remainder of the school day.



This is a bittersweet National School Lunch Week for me as this week I accepted the position of Supervisor in the School Nutrition Programs unit, in the Office of Health and Nutrition Services. It is an honor for me to serve both the professionals around the state that work hard to make thousands of meals each day and for the kids of Michigan that deserve only the best. I enjoyed lunch with my son, Bear Alexander, a 3rd grader at Gaines Elementary in Swartz Creek, MI.