

Child Nutrition Report

The **Smithville ISD Child Nutrition Department (CND)** strives to provide healthy meals to the children of Smithville ISD by incorporating nutritional foods and nutrition education.

The following are the highlights of the 2021-22 school year:

School-Summer Nutrition Program- This continued as an extended program for the 21-22 school year. With the pandemic SISD was given the option to offer meals for free to all students an additional year through the Seamless Summer Program through a federal waiver. SISD took advantage of this waiver and fed all students in school free. Remote meals were not an option since the district brought all students back to school. As a result of meals being offered for free, the department once again saw a large amount of a student's eating school meals. We continued to serve meals under CDC recommendations and precautions. We served with shields between staff and students as well as continually wearing mask in the cafeterias.

Breakfast was served remotely in the High School halls. The other schools in the district moved breakfast service back to the cafeteria.

This was another challenging school year, but the Child Nutrition Staff continued to step up to the challenge and be dedicated to serving our students and staff despite the shortage of staff.

Summer Nutrition Program- The Child Nutrition Department did continue to serve meals during the summer months as in previous years. This summer we were required to go back to congregate service. We continued to serve the community from the following locations: MLK Park, Brown Primary, Lake Thunderbird, Rec Center and Elementary Cafeteria. We served during the months of June and July.

Meals for Parents and Community- Because of COVID the department was unable to host meals for the parents and community.

School Gardens- This Department continued the partnership with the Elementary, Jr. High and High School by paying for a support employee, Mr. Richard Lowery, to facilitate these school gardens. We were excited about the progress at the High School garden this last year as the amount of produce grown for the cafeteria. The vegetables are then served in each of the school cafeterias as part of their daily lunch. The herbs grown are used in the meal preparation. We are especially excited this year about the Grow Towers in Brown, Elementary and Jr. High. The students watch the lettuce and herbs grown and then the students harvest it for their salads. We have seen a tremendous increase in students taking fresh vegetables grown in these gardens.

Catering - Majority of the catering events were postponed due to the pandemic.

SHAC- The department has an active part in SHAC promoting and educating the community about the updates in the department as well as providing nutritional lunches and nutrition information.

Grants: Due to the continually food shortage USDA has offered districts a Supply Grant. This grant is to be used to purchase domestic minimal processed foods. We are happy to say Smithville has been able to take advantage of this grant and used it to purchase Milk and Fresh Produce this school year.

Changes continue to come but as a department we are open to these changes and discovering new ways to implement them. We continue to work on offering a tasty and appealing meal that meet the USDA requirements while appealing to the students taste.

Thank you for your support of the Smithville Child Nutrition Department.

Submitted October 18, 2022 by Candy Biehle, Child Nutrition Director