
School Board Update

Finance Interns & School Nutrition

May 28, 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to provide information about:

- the work of the FY2024 Finance Interns; and
- the work of the School Nutrition Department including plans for FY2025 and beyond.

Mission

St. Louis Park Public Schools sees, inspires, and empowers each learner to live their brilliance in an environment that centers student voice and experience to create racially equitable learning that energizes and enhances the spirit of our community.

Business Services Team Goal

In alignment with the district mission, the Business Services Team will lead for racial equity through student involvement, communication and presence.

Work of the Finance Interns

Finance Intern Purpose

Interns

- Jaiden Leary, Finance Intern
- Alicia Margali, Finance Intern

Finance Intern Areas of Focus



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Finance Intern Areas of Focus

Enrollment

- [Hometown in the City](#)



Finance Intern Areas of Focus

Student Experience: School Lunch

- Interviews
 - Susan Lindgren
 - Middle School
 - High School



Finance Intern Areas of Focus

Student Experience: School Lunch Interview Summary

- School Nutrition - perceptions of meal quality
- School Administration: desires for the lunchroom experience
- School Nutrition - clarity about menu and choice

Finance Intern Areas of Focus

Student Experience: School Lunch Interview Findings

- Importance placed on socializing and community during lunchtime (educating students about the importance of nutrition)
- Concerns about rushed meal times, skipping lunch due to food preferences (educating students about the importance of nutrition)
- Emphasis on limited food options, small portions, and lack of variety in school lunches. (rotating meal options; multiple hot, cold, sandwich)
 - Increased emphasis on nutritional information (meal app) especially for athletes and during puberty (USDA Guidelines and student preference).
- Desire for improved food quality and better accommodation for dietary preferences like vegetarianism (new vegetarian options introduced next year; dietary restrictions are accommodated and addressed)
- Students express desires for more fruit and vegetable options (up to 4 daily options; government commodity + fresh)

Finance Intern Areas of Focus

Lessons Learned:

- Assumptions are made without knowledge about school lunch program
- Kids view school lunch in a variety of ways - it's not the same as parents (FAC)
- Communication is essential regarding:
 - available nutrition facts
 - fresh foods
 - relationships with nutrition staff
 - program restrictions

Questions?

St. Louis Park School Nutrition 2023-2024



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Free Meals for All

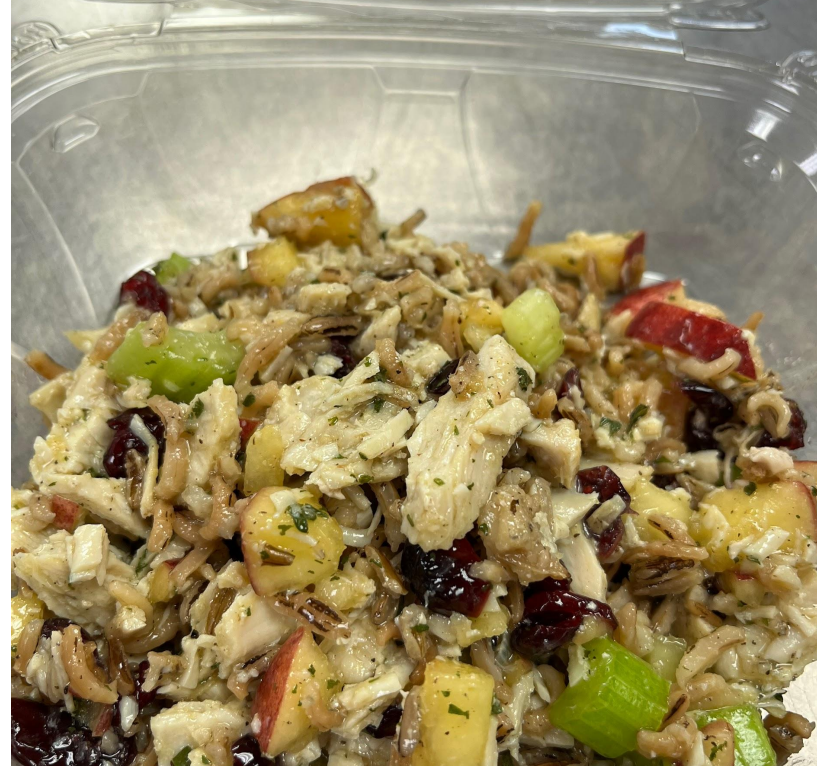
- District-Wide Meal Participation
 - Lunch - 48%
 - Breakfast - 28%
- Stability of State funding
 - Seamless process
- Direct Certification for Educational Benefits Participation - 34%

Farm 2 School

- \$50,000 grant
- New fresh scratch recipes



Farm 2 School Turkey breast and Rainbow Carrots



Farm 2 School Turkey Wild Rice Salad



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New Breakfast items:

Smoothies, Overnight Oats, Protein Bites, Breakfast biscuits, and Yogurt Parfait



Some of our many Vegetarian Options



School Nutrition Department offers delicious, healthy, and culturally diverse options to students while supporting local farmers and promoting sustainability.



Susan Lindgren student collaboration: making the switch

- Investment in durable utensils, and implementation a wash-and-reuse system
- designated collection stations, and
- educating staff and students on the proper handling and disposal of silverware.





What's new for the 2024-2025

- Fresh Ingredients
- Diverse Culinary Options
- Reduce our Reliance on Processed Foods
- Highlight Vegetarian options
- Adding a la carte options
- New High School Kitchen and Cafeteria



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Questions?