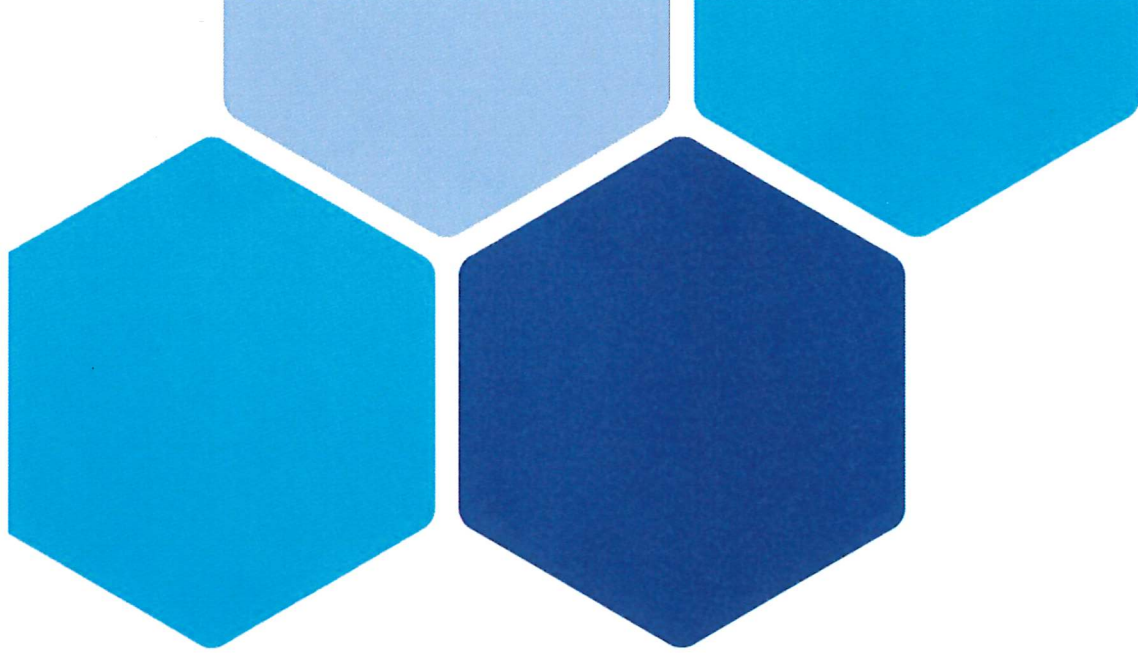


Executive Chef Introduction

District Highlight May 2025



Middletown Public Schools
Cultivating the Brilliance in Each Student



Welcome to Kashia
Diaz, Executive Chef for
Middletown Public
Schools

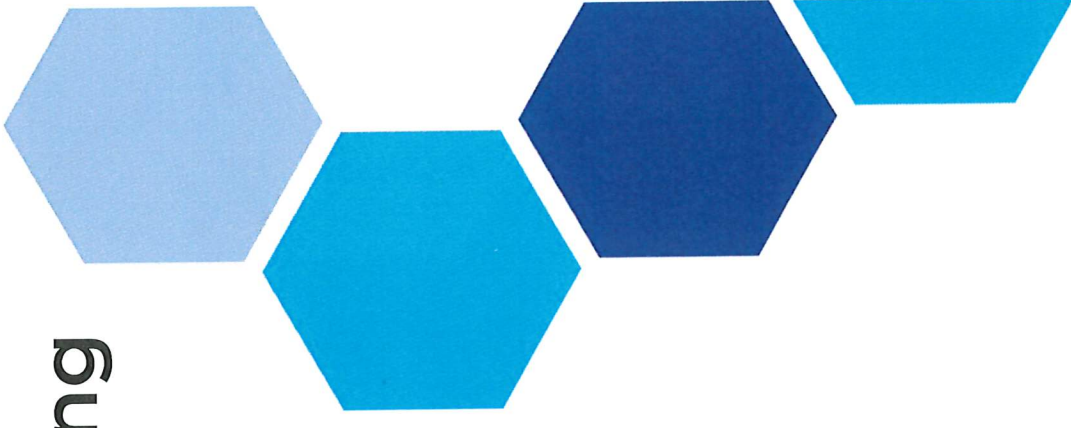


Chefs to Schools Grant – Transforming School Meals

Focus: Scratch cooking, local ingredients, and cultural inclusivity

Goal: Create meals students love while meeting high nutritional standards and creating a model of success for all CT School Districts

CSDE Funded Grant for 3 years with the goal of financial success within the department to retain the position permanently



Meet Executive Chef Kashia Diaz

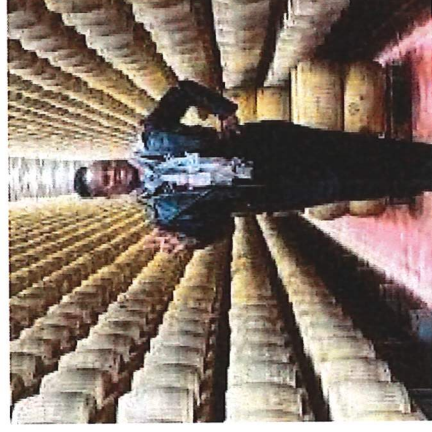
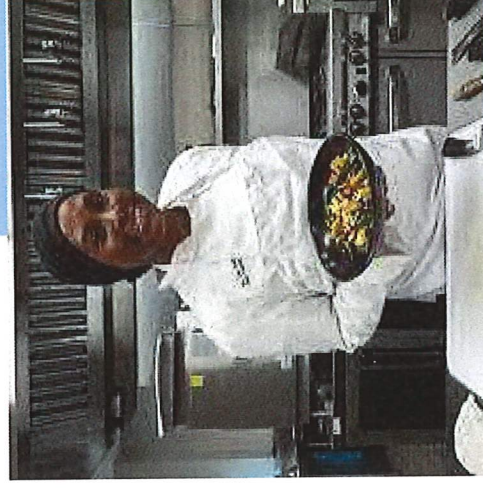
17 years in culinary education & food systems leadership
Founder of My City Kitchen and owner of KD Gastronomy Consulting LLC
Media features: PIX 11 NYC, Fox61, Netflix's "Carb-Loaded"

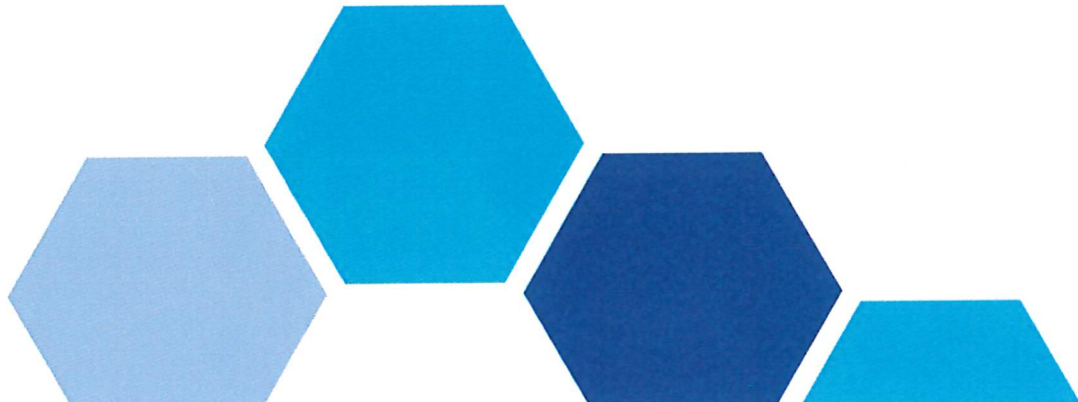
Honors:

Paul Harris Fellow Award (2024) – Rotary International
Citizen of the Year (2017) – Lion's International

Role In the District:

Develop nutritious, culturally diverse recipes
Train staff in scratch cooking
Lead sustainable kitchen practices





Successes of her first three weeks

In only 3 weeks on the job, Chef Kashia has:

- Met with many students and staff; obtaining feedback and suggestions on operating improvements
- Led the catering event for Staff Appreciation week, preparing food for 1,100 employees district wide
- Revised Standard Operating Procedures for our MHS Team and is working on reviewing operations at all 10 schools
- Identified at least \$200,000 already in potential additional revenue through ideas and possible programs to implement next school year for the department.
- Helping to Lead our Farm to School Efforts and Expansion
- Providing hands on training and professional development

A Few Words from Chef Kashia

