



## **Office of Food, Nutrition and Wellness Services**

*Cultivating the Brilliance in Each Student*

**Randall Mel, Director of Food, Nutrition and Wellness Services**

food-nutrition@mpsct.org | (860) 704-4519

372 Hunting Hill Avenue, Middletown, CT 06457

[www.middletownschools.org](http://www.middletownschools.org)

### **Summary and Request for Approval: CTG4CTK Grant**

Middletown Public Schools is pleased to announce that we are being awarded the Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids (CTG4CTK) Grant in the amount of \$74,620.00 over the course of two years. This grant, provided by the Department of Agriculture, presents transformative opportunities for our district to further support student wellness, education, and culinary advancement.

### **Key Opportunities Provided by the Grant:**

#### **1. Culinary Enhancement and Professional Development**

- The Office of Food, Nutrition, and Wellness Services will collaborate with a professional chef to conduct multiple professional development and recipe creation sessions.
- These sessions will focus on enhancing our from-scratch cooking capabilities, with an emphasis on incorporating locally sourced foods and eliminating ingredients of concern from our menus.

#### **2. Educational and Experiential Learning Opportunities**

- The grant will fund the establishment of edible school gardens, including outdoor raised beds and/or indoor hydroponic units, at all schools.
- Students will benefit from hands-on learning experiences tied to the gardens, which will also serve as a supplemental food source for our cafeterias.

#### **3. Train-the-Trainer Model and Staff Support**

- Our team, along with interested staff members, will receive training from a local farmer on how to run school gardens through multiple sessions.
- Training manuals will be created, and the program will include two stipend positions to support farm-to-school initiatives and culinary advancements.

To move forward with this exciting opportunity, we respectfully request the Board of Education approve the resolutions before them to allow the Superintendent and the Executive Director of Finance to sign on behalf of the district with the Department of Agriculture for the CTG4CTK Grant.

Thank you for your support as we continue to elevate the educational and nutritional experiences for Middletown Public Schools students.