

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 2020-21 school year:

School-Summer Nutrition Program- This became 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 through the Summer Nutrition Program. SISD took advantage of this waiver and fed all students in school, remote students and their siblings for free. This unusual meal service started with preparing and serving remote meals from a central kitchen in the Elementary. 2day and 5day boxed meals were served curb side from Smithville Elementary and then home deliveries were delivered by the Child Nutrition Department. Families requested home delivery meals online or by phone. An accountability system was put in place to assure that multiple meals were not given to students. As a result of meals being offered for free, the department saw a large increase in students eating school meals. We served 279,152 in school meals, 5,014 grab and go and 38,076 breakfast and lunches. This was a challenging school year, but the CND Staff were very dedicated to serving our students and the community.

Summer Nutrition Program- The Child Nutrition Department did continue to serve meals during the summer months as in previous years. This summer we served boxed meals to the community from the following locations: MLK Park, Brown Primary, Lake Thunderbird and Rosanky Community Center. We served 24,138 meals 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. We are looking forward to doing this again very soon.

School Gardens- This Department continued the partnership with the Elementary, Jr. High and High School by paying for a support employee, Mr. Richard Lowry, 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 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.

AWARDS- The department was honored to be recognized by the Smithville Chamber of Commerce with the Organization of the Year Award.

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 14, 2021 by Candy Biehle, Child Nutrition Director