



2017 School Breakfast Challenge

School Champion Success

School Name/District: BL Miller Elementary School, Sebring Local Schools, Rural
Champion Award Nominee: Breakfast in the Classroom Program
Breakfast Champion Success: Innovative School Breakfast Model

BL Miller Elementary School launched Breakfast in the Classroom at the beginning of the 2016/2017 school year. They attribute their success to the team effort of the dedicated staff that includes food service, the building custodian, principal, superintendent and student volunteers working together to ensure that all students have access to breakfast every day. Because of their efforts, BL Miller Elementary School received the Platinum Challenge Award for Fall, 2016 and Spring, 2017, serving more than 80% of their students breakfast every day. Beyond participation rates, breakfast in the classroom has made a positive impact on the school environment. The school nurse reports that clinic visits are down and teachers report that students are focused on the task at hand. Sue Hughes, the Food Service Director says that Crystal Brubaker, the food service assistant deserves special recognition for her devotion to the school and the breakfast program. “Crystal puts her heart into her job, I could not have done this without her”, says Sue.

School Name/District: Clark-Shawnee Elementary & Middle Schools, Clark-Shawnee Local Schools, Rural
Champion Award Nominee: Breakfast in the Classroom
Breakfast Champion Success: Innovative School Breakfast Model

The Breakfast in the Classroom model was implemented as a collaborative effort by food service staff, classroom teachers, custodians, and administrators at the building and district level. Grant monies from American Dairy Association Mideast, Action for Healthy Kids and Children’s Hunger Alliance helped with the initial startup costs of the program. Initially, one teacher was hesitant to be involved because of the perceived disruption to the classroom. As the program became fully operational, all staff began to see the tremendous value of students beginning their day with a healthy breakfast so they are ready to learn. The breakfast in the classroom program has increased participation rates of students from an average of 175 breakfast meals per day to approximately 600 students eating breakfast daily. The result, students start the day with a healthy breakfast, better behavior, stabilization of the food service fund and an increase in teamwork every morning during breakfast to make the breakfast program not only work but thrive! Clark-Shawnee Local Schools was recognized as the Breakfast Program of the Year for 2017, by the Children’s Hunger Alliance.

School Name/School District: Edison Local Elementary & High School/Edison Local Schools, Rural
Champion Award Nominee: Matt Morrison, Principal, Edison Local High School
Breakfast Champion Success: Innovative School Breakfast Model

Edison Local Schools decided to take the School Breakfast Challenge in February of 2017. With support of the superintendent, a team that included the food service director, high school principal, two elementary school principals, and Children’s Hunger Alliance worked together to encourage students and staff to participate in the breakfast program. In addition to the hot breakfast line, the elementary schools implemented a grab n go line, where students could choose to eat their meal in the cafeteria or in the classroom. Students were also provided incentives to purchase outdoor recess equipment for their schools. The high school implemented grab n go and 2nd chance breakfast and had incentives for a social. All three schools have received the Spring 2017, “Bronze” All-Star Breakfast Challenge Award for greater than 50% of their students eating breakfast at school! Congratulations!



School Name/District: Chillicothe High School, Chillicothe City Schools, Urban
Champion Award Nominee: Steve Semanick, Business Education Teacher
Breakfast Champion Success: Innovative School Breakfast Model, Tradition of Excellence

Chillicothe High School started the Cavalier Café in January 2016. The student run café operates as a business class through Pickaway Ross Vocational School called “Marketing Capstone” in coordination with food service staff and the guidance counselor. The goal was to increase student access to breakfast, assist students in learning to run a small business, increase course offerings, reward students for their positive behavior, and continue to promote the use of technology to operate the business. Students can purchase coffee and other items at the café and pick up a free grab n go breakfast outside of the café. By placing the café in an assessable area of the school and offering more selections, breakfast participation has increase by the hundreds. The café purchases coffee from FiveLoaves, an organization that provides food and clothing to the local community. This partnership has led to the creation of the “Cavalier Closet”, that serves Cavalier families and students with food, clothing, a personal item pantry and supports students that are involved in the vocational student youth organizations.

School Name/District: Piqua Central Intermediate School, Piqua City Schools, Urban
Champion Award Nominee: Lois Wion, Administrative Assistant
Breakfast Champion Success: Innovative School Breakfast Model

Under the leadership of the Principal, Josh Kauffman, the food service, custodians, other principals, school nurse and guidance counselor meet weekly to discuss ways to best serve their students. Nearly 200 students receive breakfast daily. Breakfast menus include multiple breakfast choices, hot menu items are served in the cafeteria and offered as grab-n-go breakfast, and 2nd chance breakfast for late arrivals. This year, the school initiated the “Principal Breakfast of Champions”, to honor students that have earned all A’s for the quarter. Students receive a written invitation and are invited to bring one special guest to attend the breakfast free of charge. Our community partnerships have rallied around this initiative by donating food, time, supplies and coffees, which has been a huge success in bringing the community together. We have found that this has strengthened our partnerships with local businesses and brought together parents/students and the school around celebrating student successes. The commons area is formally decorated and special keynote speakers address the students and guests on leadership and making an impact on the community at large. Guest Speakers have been Piqua’s Mayor, Kazy Hinds, United Way Chairman, Sean Ford, Varsity Basketball Coach, Heath Butler and our Valedictorian, Juliya Hsiang. The initiative has increased breakfast participation and teachers report that more students are engaged in learning. They have involved the primary buildings by showing them how the grab-n-go breakfast can be easily implemented and how to start up their own “Principal Breakfast of Champions” at their school.

School Name/District: Columbus City Schools, Urban
Champion Award Nominee: Joseph Brown, Food Service Director
Breakfast Champion Success: Tradition of Excellence

Columbus City Schools credits the success of their breakfast program to the ongoing collaboration between administrators, food service staff, teachers and students. It has been the district policy to develop the best service method and breakfast strategy based on the needs of the school. As a result, schools may serve traditional breakfast in the cafeteria, grab and go, breakfast in the classroom or a combination of service methods. Over the past two years’ breakfast participation has increased by 15.1% which is 595,264 additional meals served! Menus are planned based on nutritional quality and student preferences. Because of the dedication and collaboration of individuals at the building and district level Columbus City Schools has been recognized as Breakfast Challenge recipient for the past several years. 61 Schools have received the Breakfast Challenge Award and 62% of students receive breakfast at school. Serving the student needs not only provides a healthy start to the day but has helped build the fund balance to continue to invest in students and staff.



School Name/District: Hilliard-Tharp 6th Grade School, Hilliard City Schools, Suburban
Champion Award Nominee: Dana Schultz, Innovative Media Specialist
Breakfast Champion Success: Meal Quality, Tradition of Excellence

The media specialist worked with community organizations and the food service staff to provide incentives for students to participate in breakfast and to educate them on the benefits of eating a healthy breakfast. Through a Fuel Up to Play 60 grant from American Dairy Association Mideast, the school purchased equipment and created a smoothie recipe competition. Students submitted recipes, taste tested them and selected a winning recipe. The breakfast program now offers a smoothie at breakfast. The media center continues to promote breakfast through bulletin board materials, signage, and bookmarks that promote the importance of starting the day with a healthy breakfast.

School Name/District Name: Mayfield High School/Mayfield City Schools, Suburban
Champion Award Nominee: Sandi Smith, Cafeteria Manager
Breakfast Champion Success: Innovative School Breakfast Model

Mayfield High School child nutrition staff were exploring ways to increase breakfast participation. With buy in from the students and principal, the food service director and cafeteria staff implemented a coffee bar in the cafeteria in January of 2017. A Fuel Up to Play 60 grant from American Dairy Association Mideast, helped with the purchase of the coffee cart. Sandi's efforts to create an environment that attracted more students to the cafeteria each morning has paid off. More students are choosing to eat breakfast each morning which has increased revenue into the food service fund. The idea is easily transferable to other schools. In fact, two other schools are interested in replicating the program this coming year.

