Black River Local School District
Rural – Sullivan, Ohio in Medina County
Innovative Breakfast Model

2020 Champion of Breakfast

Collaborators

- Building Principals, Teachers, Custodians and Support Staff
- Child Nutrition
- Nursing and Wellness Committee
- No Kid Hungry, Children's Hunger Alliance, Parents

Serving Strategy

- 2016-17- Grab n go to eat breakfast in the classroom (BIC) offered districtwide before school.
- 2017-18- Room renovated near high school entrance
  - High School students grab-n-go and eat BIC.
- 2018-19- Grab n go to eat BIC before and after the first bell at the middle and high school.

Goals

- Increase breakfast participation so students are well nourished and ready to learn.
- Increase access to breakfast at the middle and high school by offering breakfast before after the first bell.

Results

- 2018-19 – 35% of students eat breakfast every day
  - Nearly doubled the number of students eating breakfast each day.
  - Breakfast before and after the first bell significantly increased the number of HS students that eat breakfast.

Failed levies over the years, limited breakfast service to the cafeteria districtwide. Students had long wait times, crowded cafeterias, and not enough time to eat breakfast. These constraints led to a decrease in breakfast participation.

With a new levy passed, and the desire of the elementary principal to promote breakfast, child nutrition explored ways to increase access and participation in breakfast. With support from the other principals, the K-8 building implemented grab-n-go breakfast in the cafeteria .

In 2016-17, the district received a breakfast grant to purchase supplies and equipment to implement grab n go and breakfast in the classroom, (BIC) districtwide. More K-5 students participated in breakfast, but grade 6-8 and high school breakfast participation did not improve with grab n go breakfast before the start to the school day.

In 2017-18, the high school principal received a grant to renovate a room located by the student entrance. Grab n go breakfast was served in the room before the start of the school day. However, students didn't stop to get breakfast before heading to their classrooms.

In 2018-19, grade 6-8 and high schools adjusted schedules so students could eat breakfast before and after the first bell. Additionally, all high school students were permitted to eat breakfast in the classroom. Breakfast at the high school increased from 20 to nearly 100 students eating breakfast each day, a 74% over the previous year.

Offering breakfast before and after the bell has increased participation districtwide to 35%. Child nutrition staff have worked diligently with the building principals and staff to adjust schedules, move students quickly through service lines, and serve students with a pleasant attitude- "a smile and a good morning." Students are satisfied and teachers report improved behavior and focus in the morning.

… "Most notable is student achievement on state testing, showed improvement in all areas."
Mr. Lambdin, High School Principal

… "Moving breakfast after the first bell , allows time for students to eat in the cafeteria, and to focus on the importance of a healthy start to their day."
Mrs. Aviles, Middle School Principal

Elementary and Middle School

Black River Local

High School

Grab N Go &

Breakfast in the Classroom