

# Bright Local School District Rural, Mowrystown, Ohio Highland County



## Breakfast & Beyond-2021

### Collaborators

- District & Building Administrators, Teachers, Education Specialist
- Child Nutrition, Bus Driver
- PTA/PTO, Parents, Volunteers

### School District Instructional & Meal Options

- SY 2019-20-Virtual Instruction March 18th to August 14th
  - Students received 2 hot lunch meals and shelf stable meals for all other breakfast and lunch meals.
    - Each student received 10 Breakfast and Lunch meals per week.
- SY 2020-21- In-person and Virtual Instruction started August 19, 2020.
  - Breakfast in the Classroom (BIC) implemented for all students attending in-person instruction
  - Breakfast and Lunch kits made available to all students attending virtual instruction

### Goals

- Develop system to distribute meals to the entire district spanning 60 miles during the pandemic.
- Ensure students are nourished and ready to learn

### Results

- 59,000 meals were served from March 18 to August 14, 2020.
- 250 evening meals have been served to virtual students in 2021

*SY 2019-20- Bright Local School District is a small rural school of approximately 700 students. Sixty percent of the student body is on the free and reduced lunch program. Geographically, the district is a narrow strip of land that stretches 60 miles end to end. The district experienced the passing of their superintendent in September of 2020. The interim superintendent, faced the pandemic with immediate response. It was important to him that students had their academic and nutritional needs met. The district surveyed families to assess their food needs. They received an overwhelming response of need. Quickly the district set out to determine feeding sites. Four different locations were determined with the local health department, Department of Education and USDA. The high school, elementary and 2 family markets were established as food distribution sites. The district borrowed heating and holding units from local churches to use for hot meals. School vans were used to deliver meals to the markets. Coordination was a big task but the district was determined to help their families receive meals. A google doc spreadsheet was used to sign up employees to help with distribution. The district needed at least eight volunteers per day for two days a week. Bus drivers, aides, teachers and food service staff volunteered to make sure meals were served to their students. Beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>, the new superintendent started and was on-board to continue feeding during the summer months. Despite obstacles of food shortages and vendors that couldn't always deliver food items needed, the distribution of meals increased as families needs increased. **A total of 59,000 meals were served to students from March to August 2020.***

*SY 2020-21- With the beginning of the school year students could attend in-person or virtual instruction. Students attending virtual school have the option to pick-up 5 meals on 2 days per week. BIC and lunch are served at no-charge to all students attending in-person school. The district also provides 250 evening meals per week to mostly virtual learning students. Some high school students pick up an evening meal at school to eat later at home. The district also works with the Freestone Food Bank to provide fresh produce for families. The produce giveaway from the food bank usually operates at the same time families pick up the evening meals. To help with other physical needs the district established "Wildcat Closet" at each building. Closets are stocked with coats, gloves, shoes, hygiene products and school supplies. Families can shop at the closet on days they pick up meals.*

*"Our district is dedicated to teaching the whole child and making sure that they have everything they need in order to succeed.... This time has brought an alliance of giving and pride in helping each other."*

*Debbie Robertson, Food Service Director, Bright Local Schools.*

# Bright Local School District

