

# Garfield Heights City Schools Urban, Garfield Heights, Ohio Cuyahoga County



## Breakfast & Beyond-2021

### Collaborators

- District & Building Administrators
- Education Specialist, Support Staff
- Child Nutrition, Bus Driver
- Pisanick Partners, Cleveland Food Bank

### School District Instructional & Meal Options

- SY2019-20- Virtual Instruction, March to August 2020
  - Curbside pick-up breakfast and lunch bags
- SY2020-21- Virtual Instruction
  - Curbside pick-up breakfast and lunch bags
  - Delivery service for families more than 2 miles from the school building
  - December 2020- Weekend meals bags provided for families in need

### Goals

- Provide breakfast and lunch meals at no-charge
- Ensure students have access to meals including weekend bags for families in need

### Results

- Families appreciate efforts of food service in providing meals for their students.

*SY2020-2021– Garfield Heights City Schools is considered severe need. Beginning in the spring of 2020 and continuing this school year, all 5 buildings in the district moved to virtual instruction. The food service department established a new service model to meet the needs of students learning from home. Breakfast and lunch meals are prepared and bagged for curbside delivery Monday thru Friday. Despite the severe need of the district, students did not take advantage of picking up meals using curbside delivery. Although meal participation decreased, staff had more time to prepare scratch-made items that students enjoy. The district began delivery service of meals for families that lived more than 2 miles from the school building. In December, the district added weekend meal bags to ensure students had breakfast and lunch every day of the week. Families pre-order meals Thursday's each week, for meals the following week. This has helped food service with forecasting the number of meals needed each day. The district is committed to serving the needs of the community by serving student favorites, offering multiple pick up locations and adding additional meals for curbside service to decrease the number of times families need to drive to school.*

*Expanding the efforts of food service has been a team effort. The department worked with the food service director, human resources, union president and business manager to design safety protocols. Kitchens were properly marked for safe distancing in work zones. Proper handwashing and sanitizing surfaces was discussed and PPE was provided for all staff. The department also recruited transportation and building aides from several buildings to deliver meals to students and to help with curbside service. Pisanick Partners, a school nutrition consulting firm, assisted with menu development and on-site management and guidance to help navigate the new service model. The district also worked with Cleveland Food Bank to get shelf-stable weekend meal bags for families in need of weekend meals.*

*In 2018, the food service department purchased an overwrap machine with funding from a national breakfast grant. In previous years, this machine was used to package hot meals for breakfast each day. Currently, Garfield Heights is using the machine to prepare frozen entrees to be sent home in weekend bags. The bags have instructions for safe reheating on the package. In the future, the district may continue to use the machine to pre-prepare weekend bags to support families in need.*

*Several families have reached out to food service expressing their gratitude for meal delivery and curbside pick up of food. Many families have been affected by a variety of hardships and stated "Without the district's help, food would have been a minimum in our house on some days." Although participation is lower than previous years, the district recognizes that families receiving meals truly are in need and rely on the meals provided for their students.*



3-Day Meal Bag

## Garfield Heights City Schools

### Student Meal Choices



Bagel Bistro



Turkey Wrap



Nachos