

Woodridge Local School District Suburban– Peninsula, Ohio Summit County



Breakfast & Beyond-2021

Collaborators

- District & Building Administrators
- Child Nutrition

School District Instructional & Meal Options

- Virtual Academy & Hybrid
- Meals at no-charge-Breakfast & Lunch
 - Virtual Instruction-5 day bags- breakfast and lunch
 - Hybrid Instruction-3 day bags-breakfast and lunch

Goals

- Provide meals at no-charge to all students districtwide
- Provide innovative access to meals for students attending virtual or hybrid instruction

Results

- Districtwide, an additional 40 students ate breakfast every day.
- Average daily participation increased from 387, SY 2019-20 to 427, SY 2020-21.

Woodridge Local School District began working on increasing breakfast participation at the middle school last year by offering students second chance breakfast. As a result, breakfast participation increased. This school year with the pandemic, students at the middle and high school had the option of attending school virtually or hybrid which negatively impacted daily participation in the meal program. With only 40% of the students attending on campus the school nutrition program worked with the superintendent, building principals, kitchen managers, teachers and bus drivers to ensure that every student had the opportunity to have a nutritious meal provided for them. The superintendent informed parents that free meal pick up would be available to all students any day they were not on campus, either attending virtual or hybrid school. Letters on the website, google forms, and a widget on the webpage directed parents to fill out a form to receive meals for pick up at their building.

Elementary students have the option to attend school 5 days a week. Teachers agreed to provide breakfast in the classroom with one condition, that students wouldn't receive sticky syrup in the classroom! Food service agreed to not have syrup on the menu. Students pick up grab and go bags in the cafeteria to bring to the classroom. To speed up service, bags are colored coded according to breakfast choices offered on the daily menu. Breakfast in the Classroom has increased breakfast participation to almost the same as lunch. At the high school the kitchen manager makes sure students are offered a hot breakfast every day. Middle school managers leave their kitchens open all morning so students can go to the cafeteria to get breakfast if they are late.

The nutrition department also offers 3 day (Hybrid) or 5 day (Virtual) pick up bags for breakfast and lunch. Each bag includes a small plastic lunch box that can be used for other things. Staff have received great feedback for giving students this extra special lunch box. For one month the district had to move to all virtual learning. With this model, the district had a decline in the number of meals served. To help families, food service worked with the bus drivers to deliver meals at centrally located bus stops. Parents were notified where to pick up their weekly bags. Two bus drivers and a food service person delivered the bags each week.

Parents are grateful for the extra effort that staff made to provide meals for their students. They have brought presents of baked cookies, sanitizing wipes, coffee, thank you cards and smiles to show their appreciation. As a result of offering free breakfast and expanding access to meals, breakfast participation has increased districtwide. Post-pandemic the district plans to continue breakfast in the classroom at the elementary school buildings and second chance breakfast for middle and high school students.

"It is so wonderful to see the smiling faces of the kids who have not been on campus as they pick up their bags with parents. They stop by to say "hi" to the lunch lady. These little things mean the world to these amazing women who are here every day putting their heart and soul into feeding our students. To me they truly are the unsung heroes".

Tina Hastings, Food Service Supervisor

Woodridge Local Schools



Meal Pick Up

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Meal Selections
Meal Preparation→
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Packaging, Lunch Box for Pick Up→

