

2023-2024 September BBRSD Food Service Update

As we move into this new school year in Food Services, we can look back at last school year with a sense of accomplishment. We also get to look forward to new and exciting possibilities.

- Great news from DESE! All Breakfast and lunches are free for this school year. We plan to offer as many reimbursable meal options as possible to satisfy our students.
- The Food Service Department is almost entirely staffed. We have a few outstanding positions to fill from staff members moving on and are working diligently to cover scheduled absences. We have created a floating 5-hour-per-day position to alleviate stress from the day-to-day routine for our Food Service Staff. We are also hiring a full-time lead cook at Tahanto who can provide additional leadership for the kitchen and cafeteria at Tahanto.
- We received a Farm to School Purchase Grant for \$5,698.00 but will wait until our DOD Fresh/FFAVORs funds are depleted to use the funds. There are many other grants available to us, and the Director of Finance and myself will work on applying for appropriate grants.
- We look forward to instituting the Breakfast After the Bell (BAB) program at our elementary schools and Tahanto. Children learn best when they are not hungry, and there are fewer behavioral issues with students who are not hungry. This program will be discussed with principals and building administrators this month and in October.
- Using school lunch funds only, we were able to repair at least six pieces of commercial equipment.
- Using school lunch funds only, we were able to purchase new district-labeled shirts for all Food Service staff members. The appreciation was received well.
- We are working on calculating what our district-wide meal participation is, but it may take at least a few more weeks. Then we can improve on those numbers.
- The School Lunch Program continues to operate as a fiscally self-sustaining program while covering additional costs it could not in the past. We do this while staying in compliance with all DESE and USDA guidelines.
- If you see or speak with a BBRSD Food Service team member, thank them for their hard work. Without them, none of this is possible.