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NEWS

Verona Area School District

Plant-powered plates: Sugar Creek students sample new vegan menu items

Elementary schools now offering vegetarian, plant-based alternatives

By Maddie Bergstrom Staff reporter

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Verona Area School District Assistant Director of Food Services Jenna Anthony went to Sugar Creek classrooms on Thu to teach students about the district's new vegan and vegetarian options for elementary students. Students also had some plant-based chicken nuggets themselves.

Photo by Maddie Bergstrom

The Verona Area School District (VASD) is now offering daily vegan and vegetarian options for elementary students.

And if you ask Sugar Creek scholars who sampled new plant-based chicken nuggets last week, they taste just like the real deal!

Sugar Creek Elementary School Principal Todd Brunner told the Press it was the school's goal to not only make students aware of the new alternative menu options, but give them a chance to try it as well.

Brunner was joined by VASD Assistant Food Director Jenna Anthony and parent Adrienne Eberhardy on Thursday, Sept. 29 to visit approximately 300 students in third-, fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms. There, Anthony told students about the differences between vegetarian and vegan foods, plus gave them plant-based chicken nuggets to try for themselves.

The following lunch alternatives have been added to elementary school menus across the district:

- Soy butter and jelly sandwich with graham crackers and string cheese (daily)
- Plain bagel with a cream cheese cup and string cheese (daily)
- Veggie burger on a bun (beef patty days)
- Plant-based chicken nuggets with a dinner roll (chicken days)

Brunner also made sure to highlight the benefits of vegan and vegetarian food during these brief info sessions. Sugar Creek has a long, award-winning focus on health and wellness. For example, it was the first elementary school in Dane County to offer free breakfast for all students, K-5 biking and snowshoeing units, along with a 1-5 swim unit.

Sugar Creek recently restarted its Health and Wellness Committee for staff and family members. Those interested in participating or learning more can contact Brunner at brunnert@verona.k12.wi.us.

Contact reporter Maddie Bergstrom at mbergstrom@ourkemediagroup.com

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