

TONKA FRESH

A Monthly Newsletter from Minnetonka Nutrition Services *September 2025*

Welcome to Tonka Fresh, the official newsletter of Minnetonka Nutrition Services! We have had so much fun welcoming all of the students back for another exciting school year. Keep reading for a special announcement, and a reminder on how students can build their lunch plate.

Welcome Back Students and Staff: Looking Ahead to an Exciting Year in Nutrition Services



Welcome back to school! The Nutrition Services Department has been eagerly awaiting students' return and has loved getting back into the hustle-and-bustle of the new year! We are proud to continue offering all Minnetonka students one free breakfast and one free lunch each day under the Minnesota Free School Meals Bill. This year, students will see many favorite menu items from previous years, along with brand new items debuting throughout the school year!

Student voice plays a crucial role in the development of menus for breakfast and lunch each year and we cannot wait to continue ensuring that student voices are heard again this year. Students can look forward to sampling opportunities throughout the school year and voting on potential new menu items. Student leaders will have the opportunity to collaborate with the Nutrition Services District Team to learn about the menu-building process, and design a student-choice menu. Stay tuned for these opportunities in the coming months!

Local Spotlight: An Exciting Vision Made Into Reality With A Local Family-Owned Company

The Nutrition Services Department has a very exciting announcement: We have a new food truck! This project has been in the works for over a year, and our friends at



Chameleon Concessions helped it come to life! The goal of this project is to enhance the school meal experience for Minnetonka students, by offering them a unique method of obtaining their free school meals or a la carte items.

The team at Chameleon Concessions, located in Minneapolis, worked with the District Nutrition Services Team throughout the entire process to design and build a truck suitable for preparing and serving food to hundreds of students. Details, such as the pass through milk cooler, will allow students to experience the truck in an interactive way. Students across the district will get to see the truck throughout the year, a treat we can't wait to share!

How Students Get to Build Their Own Meals: Called Offer Versus Serve



As a District participating in the USDA School Meals Program, students are offered a variety of nutritious options with their breakfast and lunch meal each day. Within these menu item options, students are able to build their own meals with our meal service system, called Offer Versus Serve. Offer Versus Serve is a system designed by the USDA providing students the opportunity to choose what they eat, and therefore decreasing food waste.

So how does it work? Each day, the lunch line has options for each of the required food groups: proteins, grains, fruits, vegetables and milk. When a student comes through the line, they get to build their meal by selecting which item(s) they would like from each group. The only requirement is that their meal includes at least ½ cup of fruit or vegetables, and foods from two other food groups. This USDA requirement ensures that students are selecting a nutritious and balanced meal. Additionally, students at Minnetonka Schools are welcome to take unlimited fruits and vegetables with their meals. We love to see the creative combinations students come up with, and how every meal is unique!

Did you miss a previous month's edition? Check out all [past newsletters](#) on the Nutrition Services Department website.

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