



**Meghan Bendish**  
**Director of Dining Services**

## Meet Your Director of Dining Services

After receiving classical training from the French Culinary Institute, Meghan began her career as a line cook in New York City under restaurateur Todd English. Looking to expand her understanding of the business, Meghan ventured into catering and eventually managing restaurants. These experiences allowed her to hone her skills as a true hospitality professional.

Building on her passion for health and wellness, she earned a bachelor's degree in holistic health and nutrition from UMass Amherst graduating summa cum laude. As her career evolved, Meghan accepted a private chef position for a local client. She was tasked with cooking health-minded family-favorite meals. During this time, she also learned extensively about alternative diets and specialty preparation for avoiding allergens. Using the essentials of high-nutrient foods, she began crafting meals that kids love and parents feel good about. This experience acted as the perfect transition into school nutrition, and Meghan began working for Chartwells in 2017. She has been the Director of Dining Services for Darien Public Schools since 2020.

Working as the Director of Dining Services has proved to be the perfect blend for Meghan as she enlists her cooking and hospitality experiences to ensure that students, their parents and school administration all feel well taken care of and excited about the Chartwells lunch program.

Luis Cedeño  
**District Chef**



Luis began his culinary career over 40 years ago in private clubs. He is classically trained in French cuisine and fine dining, gaining hands-on experience under the tutelage of Chef Jean-Yves Piquet. Luis joined Chartwells K-12 11 years ago and transferred to Darien Public Schools 3 years ago. Luis was then promoted to District Chef for all Darien schools.

**Fun Fact:** Luis is vegan and enjoys creating healthy alternatives to classic dishes.

Noelle Kopec  
**Assistant Director of Dining Services**



Noelle is a Culinary Arts graduate of Johnson & Wales University. She spent 15 years serving as the Manager at Middlesex Middle School. She was then promoted to Chef Manager of Darien High School and, most recently, became the Assistant Director of Dining Services for all Darien schools.

**Fun Fact:** All in the Family! Noelle has a husband and brother-in-law who work in DPS. Her son is a recent grad, and her daughter is a current student.