Transforming School Lunch



MONARCH
CATERING

Monarch is a school food service management company whose Mission is to provide children good food that nourishes their bodies, maximizes their potential, and strengthens their community through sustainable practices.

Our Core Values of Integrity, Sustainability, Accessibility, Deliciousness & Joy inform everything we do.



INTEGRITY



SUSTAINABILITY



ACCESSIBILITY



DELICIOUSNESS



JOY

INTEGRITY Scratch Cooked, Minimally Processed & Nutrient Dense

Our lunches speak for themselves:

Pasta Marinara with Seasonal Vegetables & House Made Olive Oil Garlic Focaccia

Ingredients: Pasta Mancini (Durum wheat semolina, water), Monarch Marinara (Local Farm Tomatoes, onions, carrots, garlic, extra virgin olive oil, herbs, salt, pepper), Monarch Focaccia (King Arthur High Gluten Flour (Wheat flour, enzymes), extra virgin olive oil, garlic, yeast, salt), Blanched Seasonal Vegetable (Vegetable, Salt).

Mancini Pasta is made using traditional bronze dies and slow drying from organic wheat they grow, harvest, mill, and store themselves

The Focaccia is made using King Arthur flours

- Milling American wheat since 1790
- Never bleached, never bromated & non-gmo
- Certified B Corporation
- Transparently measures environmental impact since 2007
- By 2030, King Arthur aims to have 100% of their flour sourced from regeneratively grown wheat. In 2026 they are at 26%.



@monarchschoollunch

Local Vegetables in Scratch Cooked Sauces

- Higher nutrient density
- Reduced carbon footprint from field to fork
- First hand knowledge of growing practices

Instagram Food Journal

As pictures are worth a thousand words, we share a photo journal on our Instagram page. These are not stylized - real photos from lunch service.

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SUSTAINABILITY

We cultivate partnerships and grow our impact

Sustainable Growers & Suppliers

Our suppliers maintain standards as high as ours. This network of growers and suppliers has been rigorously vetted to ensure the best seasonal variety, growing & processing standards.

Composting

BLOCK BINS

June 2021-October 2025 Monarch Stats

- Total gallons = 6,461 gal
- Amount of food scrap composted amounts to diverting 2,125 lbs of gas from the environment

Community Membership & Support

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ACCESSIBILITY Restrictions Specifications Food Culture

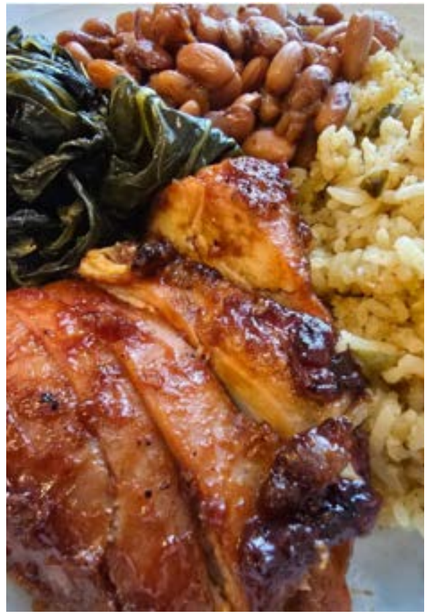
Our menus accommodate as many dietary restrictions, specifications, and food culture preferences as possible in any given menu day.

SAMPLE OF A MENU DAY

Texas Toast French Toast, Nichols Farm's Cinnamon Baked Apples, Beeler's Pure Pork Bacon, Vermont Maple Syrup



Barbecue Chicken, Southern Rice Pilaf, Baked Regenerative Beans, Sweet & Sour Collard Greens



Herb Pesto Pasta, Olive Oil Garlic Focaccia, Side Salad, Optional Aged Imported Parmigiano Reggiano Cheese



Turkey, Tofu & Garlic Chive Gyozas, Tamari Dressed Edamame & Shredded Carrot Noodle Salad



DELICIOUSNESS

CHEF MADE WITH LOVE

Our CHEFS are parents too and our lunches combine vast culinary knowledge with real world experience to cook food made with love for all our students.



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JOY SCHOOL LUNCH RE-IMAGINED

It's SIMPLE: Which would you look forward to?



Chicago H.S.



Suburban M.S.



Fast Food Burger



Monarch Burger



Lunch Time

If it looks good, tastes good & makes the body feel good, students have the space to experience the uncomplicated JOY of the lunch table with their peers.

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Why Monarch?

Your students' success at school is founded on good health which begins with good sleep & good nutrition. Although sleep is out of our hands, you can trust that the food provided by Monarch is designed to optimize nutrition.

Good nutrition is an ever-evolving landscape, and it is our responsibility to continuously study new research and developments while using common sense principles of whole, scratch, fresh, and minimally processed ingredients, in a production environment of excellence and expertise.

Let us make the food and let your students experience a joyful anticipation for lunch. Administrators and parents will gain the confidence of knowing that their students' school food service is best in class.

Wishing you healthful deliciousness,



Founder, Chef & Mother

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Monarch Our Story

The Monarch butterfly is many things:

- The Illinois state insect chosen in 1975 by third grade classes in Decatur
- Pollinators whose 1200-2800 mile migration across the continent is essential for many ecosystems to thrive
- Known by scientists as Danaus Plexippus or "sleepy transformation" in Greek, evoking the species' ability to hibernate and metamorphose

Like the butterfly, Monarch Catering Company has transformed itself over the past 10 years into the voice for cutting-edge, nutrient dense and sustainable, school food service that it is today. Our work is to realize food as medicine at school and to be a transformational tool that promotes well being and curates experiences that foster connection and builds community.

Food on the plate can be "felt" nourishment connecting physical, emotional and intellectual experiences where children associate nourishment with joy, sustainability, and community strengthening. This is our journey.

Christine Lee is president and founder of Monarch Catering Company. She believes in cooking as an expression of love that nourishes the body and spirit. Cooking with purpose for people she loves feeds her reason to cook, and for school-aged children, this becomes the joyful expression of Monarch Catering's purpose.

Impassioned by the unique challenges and rewards of school lunch, Christine draws from decades long experience in the food business as a restaurant and café owner/operator, President of Charlie Trotter Foods, Associate Facility Team Leader of the Whole Foods Market Midwest Kitchen, and various other food business endeavors.

When not in the kitchen, Christine immerses herself in the vast and fascinating world of vegetable farming and agriculture with farmer-husband, Steve, or just chilling with daughter, Theadora, & dogs, Charley and Millie.











Let's Connect

Email: info@monarchcateringco.com

Phone: (815) 201-2736

Website: http://monarchcateringco.com

Instagram @monarchschoollunch

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Chef Christine -
We love your food. Thanks for helping us try new things. Happy teacher appreciation!
♡ - Aniston
GRADY

I am thankful the chefs Because they provide us food and they work hard to make the food and its so good.

I am thankful for the food because the chefs make them.
— andrew

I am grateful for th Sandwiches because the chefs make them with delicious bread.

THANK YOU
DEAR SFF
THANK YOU FOR THE FOD. THANK YOU FOR THE PANCAKS TODAY

I am thanful for our cafeteria because they serve great food. — Locke

I LIKE THE WAY YOU COOK FOODS THAT ARE YUMM AND GOOD

Greetings Chef Christine, Chef Efran and the entire Monarch Staff,

Thank you so VERY MUCH for providing all the students, staff and parents with such amazing meals! Your "out of the box" school menu has the boys dreaming of chicken flautas, adobo chicken and soo much more. And even though I am not a regular breakfast attender, every time I have come, the warmth and atmosphere that is created by Monarch always gives me a sense of pause/relaxation in an otherwise chaotic weekday morning. Thank you again and hope you all have a fantastic summer!

DEAR CHEF CHRISTINE, CHEF EFREN THE MONARCH TEAM!
THANK YOU FOR ALL THE YUMMY TREATS. CAFE MORNINGS WERE OUR FAVORITE! THE WAFFLES ARE THE BEST. WE APPRECIATE YOU!
TEDDY KIELTYKA

Dear, Chef Efran

Thank you for all the food and milk you give us during. Every Day. you and all the other chefs make great food. You have been here for a lot of years and no matter what food your making you are always making it right. Here is a little Poem for you.

you like Kids
you always help
you Always help us everyday
Say you have been here for long and you should learn how to make long
Johns



thank YOU!



Dear chefs
I love the food you make. 1 reason I apprite you is because you feed us when we come. another reason I appr you is because you are kind and you help others. another reason I apprite you is because you take feedbo from us and don't just give us whatever. happy winter break!
From Juan

I AM THANKFUL FOR The THINGS YOU COOCK FOR US. Lov Maya: SKGB
PS. GRAE+ Job

THANK YOU



I'm thankful for the chefs, because they make our lunches so our parents don't have to pack our lunches. The chefs make really good food, especially the ham burgers.

I Apreciate you guys so much all of your food is so good. Some of my Favrites are Sloppy Joes, Pissa chicen and Pancakes! thank you.

Chef Christine and team,
Thank you for Making the best food ever! AUA loves it all very Much. I really enjoy the breakfast. You are the best school team!
Love,
Jason, Felisha
The Mitchell Family AUA



Thank U for making us nice lunches.
Karter, Camilla, Bella, Catherine, Alyssa


Dear chefs we bless you for making us nutrious food and help us to get through the Day and for making us strong and healthy God Blesses you!

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