

+ Stepping into Montana's Smarter Lunchrooms



Troy School District—Troy Middle and High School

Smarter Lunchrooms Principles Used:

1. Increase visibility
2. Increase convenience
3. Increase student/staff rapport



Contact Kris Newton
Position Food Service Director
Email kn4ever57@yahoo.com
Phone 406-295-4321, ext. 4

Goals:

- ⇒ Boost high school students participation in lunch program.
- ⇒ Increase intake of fruits and vegetables.
- ⇒ Decrease food waste.
- ⇒ Engage with students to improve acceptance and build support for school lunch program.

Action:

- ⇒ Student Council, food service, and school staff engaged in an open to discussion to provide feedback and recommendations for the menu and cafeteria environment.
- ⇒ Turned the salad bar, allowing both sides to be used for easy, fast access.
- ⇒ Enhanced salad bar to include soup, homemade bread, and convenient fresh vegetable cups. Offered a soup/salad/bread reimbursable meal option.
- ⇒ Branded the lunchroom with new name displayed on banners, aprons, and hats for food service staff.
- ⇒ Advertised daily menu options on a new menu board, and created new signage at salad bar and a la carte line.

Results:

- ⇒ Number of students using the salad bar increased by 15 percent.
- ⇒ Participation in the lunch program increased by 17 percent; however, Community Eligibility Program (CEP) an influencing factor.
- ⇒ Smarter Lunchrooms Self-Assessment Score increased by six points.
- ⇒ Staff and student collaboration was effective with new menu initiatives implemented quickly and pleasant, respectful rapport was maintained.

Next Steps:

- ⇒ Improve lunchroom atmosphere by repainting the cafeteria.
- ⇒ Once cafeteria renovations are complete, host an open house to further market Helen's Café and educate students, staff, and parents on the variety of choices.
- ⇒ Implement an expanded breakfast program next year and add signage to promote breakfast and its academic benefits.
- ⇒ Start offering theme bar (e.g., pasta or taco bar) lunch menus.
- ⇒ Apply for a HealthierUS School/Smarter Lunchroom Challenge award.

Montana Team Nutrition Program

Visit www.opi.mt.gov/MTeamNutrition

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