

Ascent Families

Greetings from CNP! We have made it, to the last menu of the school year. What an exciting time. While I was serving lunch a short time ago, watching the students make their selections at the salad bar, I watched as they passed by, I have seen so much growing. They are so much taller, smarter, engaged. It is fun to watch and look back as they have changed this school year. My team and I thank you for sharing your students with us. We have a love for them, and we hope they know that we care about each of them and want only the best for them.

I know some will advance to High School, some will move away and some will change schools, it is my hope and wish that the food experiences that have happened in our cafeterias have been positive and enjoyable for everyone. We strive every day to make it perfect, yes, some days bread fails, it doesn't rise all the way or it drops; yes, some days we may run out of a selection because it turned out to be more popular than we expected and higher than the number of students that "order" in the morning. This is why we do batch cook, trying to make sure that we have what is needed per lunch, no one wants chicken that has sat for 2 hours to be served, our ovens are always going and food is coming out. It's always been my hope that every day we serve our students a restaurant quality meal, I know we have off days, but I think we are pretty close 95% of the time.

The work for next year has already begun. Menu's that are reflective of our students' likes, that fit the USDA's rules and work within the limits we have in the kitchens. We are planning some growth and working to figure out how to make the dreams that I have, come to life in the cafeteria. Planning for Child Nutrition Professionals training and growth is under way. There will be some changes that will happen, some because it is required by law and some because they improve our program. All of the required by law changes will be announced as we are required to have them all set by the deadlines the USDA has set, other fun changes will be announced as we are able to roll them out with having things set in place.

As we draw to a close, please, take a minute and check your student's lunch balances. We will have to increase the number of emails and phone calls to families with negative balances. This takes a lot of time and that time takes away from creating the meals your students eat. I stress to you, that accounts need to be paid to zero by the last day of school. The USDA is cracking down on us with negative balances, which means we will have to have a plan in place that collects those funds. Please help us avoid having to go to that process by getting accounts cleared up. If you have any questions, I am always reachable by email, dhirst@ascentutah.org. If I don't respond within two days email me again please.

It has been my pleasure to lead the Child Nutrition Program this year. I thank you for the support and feedback as we have made this happen. I wish you all a safe, fun and healthy summer break. Until August, when we eat again...

Chef Dave