Promote your School Meal Programs!

Child Nutrition Spotlight
WHY MAKE SCHOOL MEALS FUN WITH PROGRAM EVENTS?!

- Creates a Happy Cafeteria Environment
- Increases Participation
- Increases Program Revenue
- Encourages Students to Try New Foods!
- Promotes Local NYS Foods!
- Increases School Meals Program Awareness & “Buy In”

MARCH 4-8

SURF’S UP WITH SCHOOL BREAKFAST

PLAN YOUR SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK EVENTS NOW!
# School Year Guide to Promote Your Program

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<td>September 2023</td>
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<td>18th- Cheeseburger Day</td>
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<td>19th- Talk Like a Pirate</td>
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<td>27th- World School Milk Day</td>
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<td>9th-13th- Level Up with School Lunch #NSLW</td>
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<td>26th- Big Apple Crunch</td>
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<td>Farm to School Month</td>
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<td>November 2023</td>
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<td>3rd- National Sandwich Day</td>
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<td>15th- National Pickle Day</td>
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<td>23rd- Eat a Cranberry Day</td>
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<td>December 2023</td>
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<td>5th- National Comfort Food Day</td>
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<td>13th- National Cocoa Day</td>
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<td>January 2024</td>
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<td>4th- National Spaghetti Day</td>
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<td>19th- National Popcorn Day</td>
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<td>February 2024</td>
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<td>27th- National Strawberry Day</td>
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<td>2nd- Dr Seuss Day</td>
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<td>4th-8th- Surf’s Up with School Breakfast #NSBW</td>
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<td>22nd- Earth Day</td>
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<td>23rd- National Picnic Day</td>
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<td>30th- National Raisin Day</td>
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<td>May 2024</td>
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<td>3rd- School Lunch Hero Day</td>
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<td>4th- Star Wars Day</td>
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<td>June 2024</td>
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<td>11th- National Corn on the Cob Day</td>
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<td>12th- Superman Day</td>
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<td>July 2024</td>
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<td>10th- Teddy Bear Picnic Day</td>
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<td>29th- National Lasagna Day</td>
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<td>August 2024</td>
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<td>3rd- National Watermelon Day</td>
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<td>31st- National Trail Mix Day</td>
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THINGS NEEDED FOR A SCHOOL MEALS CELEBRATION:

- Date of event
- Food
- Creative menu
- Decorations
- Staff participation
- Photos

Deb Mackey, Food Service Director, Mechanicville City SD, states “you just need one thing to draw them in.”
"It's all about customer service. Listen to the students, they will tell you the good and the bad."

Thank you Josh, Jonnel, Daniel and Margaret for going above and beyond in your work!

Saratoga Springs City SD celebrates Dr. Seuss Day!

Saratoga County Happy Customers!

The food is fun
The staff are great
The kids eat all
That's on their plate
With days like these
With food and friends
We hope that breakfast never ends

Greenfield Elementary School Saratoga County

Green eggs and ham!
Hartford CSD
Washington County

The Maple Experience

Students at Hartford CSD learned how to make maple syrup with the Mobile Maple Experience and then had a maple infused lunch!

From tree to tray!

Maple glazed chicken!

Sweet potatoes and carrots!

Fresh apple sauce sweetened with maple syrup!

Maple syrup samples!
Hartford CSD’s Superintendent, Andrew Cook, and Food Service Director, Patrick Kenneally, competed in a NYS rib BBQ cook off. Students and celebrity judges voted for their favorite!

New York State Food Cook Off!

Hartford CSD
Washington County

NYS foods were used to create a purple potato salad, pickles, mac and cheese and honey roasted corn muffins!
CAMBRIDGE CSD PARTNERED WITH LOCAL CHEF, ANEESA WAHEED, TO BRING DIVERSE OFFERINGS TO STUDENTS WHILE USING NY FOODS.

CAMBRIDGE CSD
Washington County
AGRICULTURAL FAIR

STUDENTS LEARNED FULL CYCLE OF FARM TO TABLE AT CAMBRIDGE’S AGRICULTURAL FAIR.
FROM TAKING CARE OF ANIMALS TO LOCAL AGRICULTURAL JOBS.

STUDENTS TRIED MANY NY FOODS.

LOCAL LUNCH TRAY!
New Item Demos!
From Capital Region BOCES

Students topped their baked potato with toppings like pulled pork, cheese sauce, sour cream, mac & cheese, to pair with fruits, veggies, and milk for a fun lunch!

Top Your Baked Potato at Berne-Knox Westerlo!

Schoharie CSD
Hummus tasting!
To help students become more familiar with menu offerings like veggie hummus meals, a hummus tasting was conducted and paired with NYS pita chips!

Capital Region BOCES uses new item demos to promote participation at:

Berne-Knox-Westerlo CSD
Schoharie CSD
Niskayuna CSD
Waterford CSD
Watervliet City SD

Students got to vote on menu items for next school year, like Korean Beef Barbecue sandwiches!

Voting Buckets

La Comida Vida
Shredded Beef
Korean Beef Sandwiches
North Shore CSD
Nassau County

Scratch cooking
Fresh ingredients
And made to order lunches

The school works with CCE to get connected with local farmers and vendors.

Ramen Noodle Bowl
Beef Sliders
Shepherd’s Pie
Meatless Monday (Ft. Impossible Beef)
Deli Bar (Ft. Boars Head Meats)
Chicken Sandwich with house made Pesto
Beef Tacos
And More!

Participation Boosters:

North Shore CSD has 55% Lunch Participation!

From fresh ingredients...
...to fish tacos...
...to happy customers!

Alan Levin,
Food Service Director

Dedicated long-term staff,
Scratch cooking
Fresh ingredients
And made to order lunches

Are just a few of the things that keep both staff and students coming back day after day!

State Agriculture Commissioner, Richard A. Ball pictured with Cheryl Bilinski, Amy Bly and Sandra Menasha from Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)
Schalmont CSD
Schenectady County

Food service workers received cards from students and treats to honor their hard work!

Debbie Mastroianna, Tammy Waring, Colleen Hirsh, Karen Gliot, Rebecca Naumowicz and Laurie Russell
Berne-Knox-Westerlo CSD
Luau Lunch

Special Luau lunch for all students and staff was provided by the district’s General Fund account!

Fresh smoked chicken wings and pineapple fried rice

Students were able to try diverse foods at the Luau!

Cornell Cooperative Extension provided a fresh, local salad!
Charlotte Valley CSD celebrated National Apple Day! The students tried a variety of fresh, local apples!

Students were able to try Fuji, Honeycrisp, McIntosh, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Cortland, Empire and Gala Apples!
Hilton CSD Celebrates “NY Thursdays”

NYS beef, roasted veggies, chips, apple and milk!

Menu-Highlighting NY Products

Meal prep!

Monroe County
Thank you!

We look forward to the 23-24 school year celebrations!

Please send pictures to cnspotlight@nysed.gov