



CHELSEA

SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

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To: Board of Education
From: Chris Simpson
Re: August/September Food Service Board Report
Date: 8/26/2026

I think that was the fastest summer on record! I can't believe as I write this, we are just a few short days from welcoming students back! We are hitting the ground running and have lots of new, exciting stuff coming this year. Our big new promotion is at the elementary schools and it's called Nutrition: Game On! Each month has a new focus that we will feature a recipe from once per week. It's game board themed with lots of fun characters and some swag for students! Our first LTO is running from Sept-Nov and is called Pizza Daze featuring lots of new pizza recipes and add-ons designed to show off the new pizza dough we will be featuring! Some favorites like Global Eats will be returning as well.

I wanted to take a brief moment to talk about food safety. I'm sure you all heard about the parasite that spread through Michigan and the country over the summer, likely tied to lettuce, among others. We have numerous resources available to us to ensure we are keeping all of our clients safe. Chartwells communicates daily with us regarding specific product recalls. They also send out additional urgent communication when needed, such as when cyclospora was at its highest rates. The vendors we purchase from also communicate with us. For example, our produce distributor sent a letter this July indicating that none of the lettuce they were delivering had been sourced from Mexico. I am spending time with my food service staff as part of our back-to-school training reiterating safe food prep practices and of course handwashing. Our produce ordering software identifies produce that comes from Michigan and I have instructed our head cooks to order those products as much as possible. I also am going to be exploring opportunities to purchase produce from some of our local farms as well! These are all things that we do normally, but I just wanted to highlight them for you to reassure anyone feeling unsure about the current food safety issues. Safety of our students is our top priority!

Staffing:

- I am excited to share that our assistant cook from North Creek, Shawntay Munker, has accepted the head cook position at Pierce Lake! She has been at North for the last 5 or so years and I am excited for her to step into this role. I know she will do great and she has been busy this last month getting things ready to serve both Preschool and Young 5s.
- We are just about finished hiring 3 new assistant cooks for North Creek and Beach. I believe all the pieces will be in place for them to start on Monday 8/31, but if not, it should be just a short time after! I will introduce them all to you after we complete the hiring process.



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- We are hiring Erica Sprinkle who is a bus monitor for us and has been a lunch monitor previously at North Creek as well, for assistant cook!

Financials:

- The Senior Center ran through June and July with a sales volume of about \$35,750.

Respectfully,
Chris Simpson, Director of Food Services