



RIPON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Renewing Students' Interest in the School Nutrition Program



SCHOOLS:
4 Buildings
ENROLLMENT:
1,786
FREE & REDUCED:
33%
ARAMARK PARTNER SINCE:
2021

Starting with the 2021-2022 school year, Ripon Area School District partnered with Aramark Student Nutrition to provide high-quality, fresh, delicious food, and increase participation. Within a few months, the district saw a significant increase in student participation and meal revenue. This was achieved through providing a highly varied menu with healthy foods and increasing convenience.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

Overall Meals	Lunch	Breakfasts	Snacks
+64%	+27%	+76%	+196%

vs. in-person Spring 2021



The new Breakfast in the Hallway program gives students two chances for breakfast — via grab-n-go bags or from staff members visiting the classrooms.

THE RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Getting students interested in the districts' nutrition program again required three key initiatives — making breakfast more appealing, bringing back students' lunchtime favorites and using tasting samples to introduce students to new menu items.

Expanding breakfast service.

Aramark Student Nutrition launched a program called Breakfast in the Hallway, where carts by the two main entrances provide pre-bagged meals as students arrive. Nutrition staff also visit each classroom, so that any students who did not get a meal from the carts have another opportunity to get breakfast.

Diversifying breakfast and lunch choices.

The nutrition team expanded meal options at the elementary and middle schools, introducing additional healthier options for breakfast and lunch with input from students, parents and administrators. They also increased daily hot lunch options at the high school from four to six.

Exploring new flavors with Test Kitchen.

The team introduced *Test Kitchen*, a station that features rotating foods and flavors such as boneless wings, popcorn chicken stir fry, brunch, and customizable tacos. The station provides taste tests as well as full meals, driving participation with foods that excite students and providing an opportunity for student feedback to help shape the nutrition program.



DRIVING ACHIEVEMENT WITH HEALTHY MEALS

As part of providing high-quality meals, the school district set nutritional goals with Aramark Student Nutrition to improve the physical, social and emotional health of its students, fueling academic achievement.

Aligned with the district's goals, Aramark Student Nutrition's menus have focused on reducing added sugar, eliminating processed foods and additives, and increasing protein and fiber. Food Service Director Katie Maccoux also met with administrators, parents and students to gather feedback to help shape new menu offerings. Based on their feedback, she then created a menu of 25 healthy breakfasts the team could introduce or offer more often, including:

- **Breakfast pizzas**
- **Egg, bacon and cheese melts**
- **Pancake sausage wraps**
- **Blenderless smoothies**
- **Overnight oats**
- **Breakfast burritos and tacos**
- **Strawberry parfaits**

Aramark Student Nutrition's menus have also incorporated more whole fruits and less juice to support students getting the fiber they need. The team has also incorporated house-made granola and lower-sugar cereals to avoid added sugars.

SERVING HIGH-QUALITY MEALS AND FINANCIAL RETURNS

As a partner to K-12 schools for over 60 years, we've developed solutions for healthy meals made with fresh ingredients that students enjoy, all while helping districts amplify their bottom line. **For more information, contact us today.**

CONTACT US

For more information visit us at:
[K12INSIGHTS.ARAMARK.COM](https://www.k12insights.aramark.com)



COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Aramark Student Nutrition prioritizes communication, knowing it's essential for providing great meals that excite students and drive meal participation. Aramark introduced its Student ViewPOINT™ survey to collect insights directly from students and parents in the district, and the team also meets with students, parents, administrators, principals, and teachers to hear feedback and share updates. The frequent and in-depth communication has contributed to the program's significant meal growth.

