

Office of Health and Nutrition Services School Breakfast Heroes March 2020

Harper Creek Board of Education, Harper Creek Community Schools



The Harper Creek Board of Education has gone above and beyond to make sure their students are focused and ready to learn every day by taking the barrier of meal costs to parents out of the breakfast program. The Harper Creek Board of Education unanimously voted to institute universal free breakfast at all elementary buildings starting in February of 2020. Since this has been in place, student participation has increased by 45 percent, which means 130 more students are now receiving a well-balanced breakfast every day and can start their day and their lives focused and ready to learn! It's because of heroes like the Harper Creek Board of Education and the team effort, that Harper Creek students are getting Better with Breakfast!

Melissa Carouthers, Custodian Superwoman, Comstock Elementary School



School Breakfast Heroes who don't get enough recognition are often the people behind the scenes. This is the case at Comstock Elementary school. Miss Melissa, AKA – Custodial Superwoman, works hard every day to make sure students and teachers have a clean, sanitary work environment. Many custodians are concerned or worried about what breakfast in the classroom may mean for them, but not the Custodial Superwoman. She knows how much it benefits the students and works to keep things running smoothly and efficiently every day.

Because of breakfast in the classroom at Comstock Elementary, 100 percent of all students who attend are starting their day with a healthy breakfast!

Chuck Ackley, School Safety Liaison, Bay-Arenac Community High School



Heroes come in all different forms – the School Breakfast Hero at Bay-Arenac Community High School comes in the form of a School Safety Liaison, Chuck Ackley. On any given day, the students at Bay-Arenac Community High School face a multitude of challenges just to come to school. All of the students that attend Bay-Arenac High School receive free breakfast and lunch every day. Amidst all the chaos they face, Chuck ensures they are all greeted with a warm smile, a "welcome-welcome," and **breakfast**. Although it isn't his job, Chuck arrives early to ensure breakfast is laid out and ready for the student's arrival. Chuck and the team at Bay-Arenac High School worked together to start a second chance breakfast this to ensure as many students as possible receive a healthy meal to start their day.

Ryan Roberts, Principal, Beaverton Jr./Sr. High School



It is a fact that breakfast in the classroom increases participation which also helps with academic and social success of students. Ryan Roberts, Principal of Beaverton Jr./Sr. HS, recognized how important nutrition is to his students and is now allowing 8 classrooms in his secondary school to be served breakfast in the classroom. Students also have a second chance breakfast program at Beaverton Jr./Sr. High School. Because of these programs, Beaverton Jr./Sr. High School is now meeting the state goal of 70 percent of students participating in breakfast that participate in lunch. At the Jr./Sr. High School 76 percent of students that eat lunch also eat breakfast!

Jodi Judis, School Nutrition Staff, Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Lakers



At Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Lakers Middle School you will find an extraordinary person, Jodi Judis. Jodi has a passion for serving kids and a passion for breakfast! Four years ago, breakfast was only served for 10 minutes prior to the bell ringing and 20 kids ate breakfast daily at the secondary school. This year counts are soaring district wide due to the hard work and dedication of Jodi. Breakfast has expanded at the secondary level to being offered 35 minutes before the first bell and is opened again for a second chance breakfast between first and second hour. Jodi engages with the students and works hard to revamp, change, and keep the menu fresh which keeps them coming. Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Lakers now serves 130 students every day at the secondary school. Jodi continues to look for ways to keep breakfast fresh and keep the kids eating!

Monica Collier, Director of Dining Services, Godfrey-Lee Public Schools



Monica Collier, Director of Dining Services (DDS), is the definition of a School Breakfast Hero. Her numbers say it all! When Monica was appointed as the DDS of Godfrey-Lee Public Schools last school year, all the students already qualified for free breakfast due to the high poverty rate within the district. However, only 12 percent of the student body was eating breakfast. Monica took a deep dive in to find out why students weren't eating breakfast. The students indicated that they didn't have enough time. So, Monica innovated and began using breakfast carts positioned just inside the door so students could grab breakfast on their way into school and consume it on their way to class. The results have been tremendous! Breakfast counts have increased by 56 percent this school year and students are getting the nutrition they need! Godfrey-Lee Public Schools is now meeting the state goal of greater than 70 percent of students eating breakfast compared to lunch! Monica Collier...School Breakfast Hero!

Bonnie Gainor, School Nutrition Director, Bad Axe Public Schools



Bad Axe Public Schools has had the honor of having Bonnie Gainor as their Food Service Director for the past 10 years. Mrs. Gainor has been a School Breakfast Hero in her tenure at Bad Axe Public Schools. Seven years ago, Mrs. Gainor recognized the need to feed more students breakfast and created a second chance breakfast for high school and middle school students. Mrs. Gainor has put forth a lot of time and effort in order to assist with educating students on proper nutrition and more specifically the importance of starting the school day off with a good, healthy breakfast. Participation at that time grew from 30 percent up to 50 percent and the program continues to grow today. Mrs. Gainor is a trailblazer in the world of school breakfast and continues to be a School Breakfast Hero!

Rachael Cooper, School Nutrition Staff, Greenville Public Schools



Greenville Public Schools Breakfast Hero is Rachael Cooper. Rachael is always looking for innovative ideas to improve and enhance the breakfast program. Rachael has raised participation rates by using hybrid models of breakfast in the classroom and grab-and-go styles of service. Rachael has tweaked these programs to make them fit into the daily schedule and has done it in a manner that has been universally accepted by both students and staff. Rachael has developed a breakfast program that is efficient in use of time and resources and beneficial to students and staff alike. Greenville Public Schools is serving breakfast to 80 percent of the population that eats lunch.

Patty Silorey, School Nutrition Staff, Oxford Community Schools



Patty Silorey is the Kitchen Manager of Food Services and works out of Oxford High School, home to nearly 2,000 students. Patty has an ability to connect relationally to students and staff alike making them feel welcomed, encouraged, and that they truly matter. This alone keeps them coming in for breakfast day-after-day to start their morning in a positive way. Her contributions to the culture of the cafeteria have made a great impact, becoming the place students want to hang out before (and after) school. She is a great role-model for her fellow co-workers and to students as well. Patty comes to work daily with a joy-filled spirit, strong work ethic, great integrity, and a humble nature coupled with a great desire to go above and beyond in every aspect. Patty is a School Breakfast Hero due to her integral role of expanding the high school breakfast menu which in turn has steadily increased the number of students consistently enjoying a great meal to start their day of learning. She listened to what the students were desiring to see from the breakfast program and helped find a way to make it happen. This year students have delicious, quality options that rival most restaurants! From homemade bagels to the hot breakfast bar, refreshing greek yogurt parfaits to hot and tasty breakfast burritos and sandwiches, or the full waffle bar and of course a myriad of cereal choices -- the plethora of delicious options leave students wanting for nothing.

Caroline Dylewski, School Nutrition Director, Warren Consolidated Schools



Caroline's belief, that "a nourished student is a learning student," is evident not only through her day to day work ensuring that more than 13,000 students have access to healthy breakfast and lunch options, but also in her leadership of the Food Service Department. Caroline is always looking for new ways to introduce foods to school cafeterias and is driven to increase participation in school nutrition programs. Caroline is a Michigan School Breakfast Hero because she has led multiple "Universal Free Breakfast" events. She continues to line up grant funding, plan the menu, and the many logistics that go into this effort for the district. Caroline completes this work, in tandem with her team, to ensure that the breakfast programs at Warren Consolidated Schools continues to grow. In addition to raising awareness and ensuring breakfast is offered in all schools, this year, Caroline partnered with the United Way and the United Dairy Industry of Michigan to purchase carts which operate before school and between first and second hour. The cart, which serves a second chance breakfast, feeds hundreds of students each day which has helped to raise breakfast participation throughout the district. For students who arrive late, or who may not be ready for breakfast at the early morning hour that school starts, this second chance breakfast option is allowing them to start their day off right!

Judy Klutts, School Nutrition Director, Dollar Bay-Tamarack City



Judy Klutts began her food service director position in May of 2019 and has already proven herself as a Michigan School Breakfast Hero! She hit the ground running this school year and implemented a second chance breakfast for 7th - 12th grade students of this Upper Peninsula school district. Judy wanted to make sure all the students ate breakfast when they felt hungry, not necessarily when we think they should be hungry. This fall, between first and second periods, hungry middle and high school students can get their fuel for the day even though they do not arrive at school in time or don't feel like eating that early in the morning. This program took planning, prep, and time, and Judy ensures it continues to run smoothly every single day. "This new offering has been highly successful and is appreciated by our students!" states

Christina Norland, Superintendent-Principal of Dollar Bay-Tamarack City K-12 Schools. Judy gets to know each student who comes through the "regular" breakfast line, down to the preferred oatmeal flavor of the little ones!

Kris Kinley, School Nutrition Staff, Freeland Community Schools



Kris puts her whole heart into serving high school students' breakfast from the new mobile breakfast cart received from a grant from No Kid Hungry. She has been instrumental in TRIPLING the number of students eating breakfast at the high school this year. Kris encourages students to take a complete meal while continuing to listen to them and providing menu items that they like. Not only is breakfast served in the morning, but Kris is ready to go at the high school every day with a second chance breakfast to serve the students. Kris knows each student by name, and they know her. She encourages a full breakfast and educates students on the importance of breakfast each day. Kris has an inviting personality, and everyone she serves has nothing but great things to say about her!

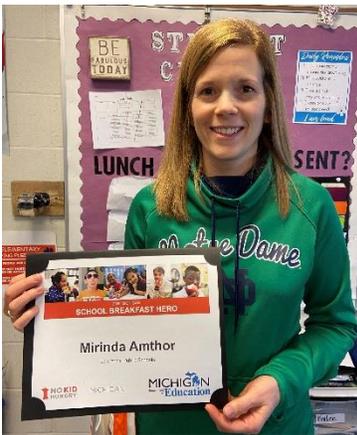
Amy Miller, School Nutrition Staff, Port Huron Area School District



Rushed high school students don't stop Amy Miller from making sure that students at Port Huron Northern High School start their day with a nutritious breakfast. Students that drive, enter the building just as the bell is ringing, giving them only 5 minutes to get to class before they are tardy. Amy set up a grab-and-go cart with a few high school favorite breakfast entrees, fresh fruit, juice and milk. Since the cart began, Amy is serving 205 more breakfasts every day! The real success comes with the excitement that Amy

puts into serving the students. She welcomes all students every morning and invites them to grab a breakfast to take with them to class. Amy is a true School Breakfast Hero and child advocate!

Mirinda Amthor, Teacher, Lawrence Public Schools



Breakfast in the classroom is being led up by efforts from this 5th grade teacher who is a Michigan School Breakfast Hero, Mirinda Amthor. Mirinda noticed several students in her classroom were hungry during the school day and worked with the food service director and the PTO to come up with a solution. Free breakfast was already being served in the elementary school but only half of the students were eating. Mirinda volunteered to be a pilot classroom for serving breakfast to her students in the classroom. The pilot was successful, and she now is an advocate for breakfast in the classroom and sharing her success with the rest of the school building! She is meeting with the teaching staff and has other teachers ready to jump on board! Her efforts are leading to more kids being focused and ready to start their day!