

Scratch Cooking Spotlight



Anderson School, Bozeman, Montana

Anderson School has completed the Montana School Meals Certificate Training, a substantial professional development program including 40 hours of training plus a \$7,500 grant to support the school's nutrition program. Funding was provided by a USDA Team Nutrition grant with the goal of supporting new Food Service Directors.

Kate Huston, Food Service Director at Anderson jumped feet first into her new role in 2022. Highlights of Anderson's outstanding school meals program:

- Purchases of local foods have increased yearly! An incredible 60% of food served is from local sources including all beef being from Todd Family Ranch and 80% of pork from Ranchland Packers out of Butte.
- A new school breakfast program, serving nutritious hot meals to 25% of students regularly, ensuring all students start their day ready to learn. Parents often join their children for breakfast; what a nice start to the day.
- Cooking from scratch with fresh, local foods along with the effective use of USDA foods and the preparation of new recipes keep students interested and eating well. 75% of students and staff choose to eat school lunch daily.
- A garden education program will be embedded in the classroom and cafeteria. Anderson integrates garden education through the Montana Harvest of the Month program materials and inviting farmers into the school.

All accomplishments have been possible thanks to the school nutrition staff's team approach to prepare and serve meals with kindness and respect which makes for positive and pleasant mealtimes.

Over two years, Kate has attended culinary training to sharpen scratch cooking skills, has become a School Food Service Peer Mentor/Trainer, a School Nutrition Association Board Member, and plans to teach several courses to peers at the 2024 Montana School Nutrition Association Conference in June.

Way to go, Anderson School Nutrition Team! Thank you for setting the bar high and being a role model for others!



Harvest of the month posters decorate the lunch service line.



The Anderson School Nutrition Team.



A colorful lunch tray featuring lasagna, salad, and berries.

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