



# Monforton School Serves Montana Grown Treat: Sweet Cherry and Chocolate Overnight Oats December 2021

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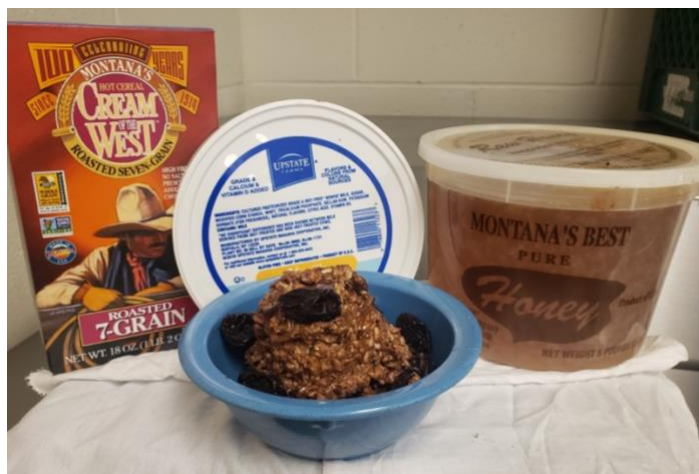
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## Monforton School Serves Montana Cherries in Special Lunch, December 2021

Monforton school nutrition staff highlighted some of Montana's local charms in a special meal featuring Sweet Cherry and Chocolate Overnight Oats in December of 2021. Their students loved the recipe and can expect to see this dish incorporated into either breakfast or lunch at school in the future.

Monforton is one of six school districts in the state working with Montana Team Nutrition to test recipes and conduct nutrition education featuring Montana grown and raised foods through a 2021 USDA Team Nutrition Grant.

Ashley Darling, School Food Service Director during the 2021-2022 school year, and Ally Papi, Assistant Cook, went above and beyond in their service of locally grown foods paired with nutrition education in the classrooms and the lunchroom. In just this one recipe, the sweet cherries, honey, and whole grain cereal were all grown or produced in Montana!



This recipe was also served at a breakfast buffet to over 250 people at the Montana School Nutrition Association summer conference in June of 2022. Members of Montana Team Nutrition attended this conference and continue to rave about the dish.



Thank you to Ashley Darling, Ally Papi, and the rest of the school foodservice staff for featuring these local ingredients in the kitchen and allowing kids to experience delicious Montana cherries.

This Montana Team Nutrition project, funded by a 2021 USDA Team Nutrition Grant awarded to the Montana Office of Public Instruction, supported the development of six recipes for use in school meal programs using ingredients from foods produced in Montana including barley, beets, bison, sweet cherries, and lentils.

Recipes are currently available from Montana Team Nutrition through their website at <https://www.montana.edu/teamnutrition/>. The recipes will also be incorporated into the USDA Institute of Child Nutrition Recipe Box allowing schools from across the nation to experience Montana flavors, recipes, and cultures. Recipes will be accessible through their website at <https://theicn.org/cnr/>.



Montana School Nutrition Association summer conference in June of 2022 featured the Sweet Cherry and Chocolate Overnight Oats Recipe for all who attended. It was a huge hit!

Story developed by: Ali Badger, MSU Dietetic Intern, August 2022

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