

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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New cafeteria concept working well in Comal ISD

It seems like a simple enough concept, but students in all grade levels have enjoyed serving themselves in Comal ISD lunch lines this school year.

Don't worry – cafeteria workers in the district didn't go on strike. It's all part of Chartwells' game plan to have students eat more of exactly what they want.



"Kids are eating more fresh fruits and vegetables than ever this year," said Dianna Tidwell, Comal ISD director of dining services. "Kids are finishing their meals. Nothing is getting thrown away because they are picking out things they like to eat."

At the elementary level, an adult server helps with the hot portion of the meal but students as young as pre-K are picking out and placing items like green beans, bread sticks, applesauce and fruit salads on their trays.

Chartwells began providing dining services in all Comal ISD cafeterias this school year.

"The students and staff love the new self-serve way of doing things in the cafeteria," said Robbin Damerou, manager at Morningside Elementary School's

Kid Stop Café. “I know at the elementary level, it makes them feel older and more responsible.”

First grader Eva Seibert paused for a moment before picking her favorite item in line.

“I like the way I choose my own food now,” Seibert said. “It’s pretty cool.”

Morningside Elementary principal Jodi Cox said she saw an immediate difference in her students and even took part the first day the self-serve concept was available at her school.

“I served myself some tomato soup and a grilled cheese sandwich on a rainy day and it was delicious,” Cox said. “It’s great to see an idea like this making such a difference in the way our kids view lunch time.”

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IN PHOTOS:

Peyton Degroote proves that anytime is a good time for applesauce as he fills his tray at Morningside Elementary. Students began serving themselves in line this school year as part of Chartwells’ successful effort to have them eat more of the foods they like.

Morningside Elementary student Marc Villanueva is happy with his healthy choice as he picks out a pear to have at lunchtime at the Kid Stop Café.

Dillon Bartts carefully places a breadstick on his tray next to his spaghetti and milk during lunch at Morningside Elementary.

Wade Porterice makes himself a salad at the self-serve cafeteria line at the Kid Stop Café. Students at all grade levels in Comal ISD are enjoying this new cafeteria feature put in place by the district’s new dining services provider Chartwells this school year.



