

# Sparta Area Schools Food Service Newsletter

## September 2024

We are so excited to start another fantastic school year with **FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH** for all prek-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. Please remember that students must get a complete meal to receive the free meal benefits. All a la carte items will be charged to students meal accounts or will require payment at time of purchase. If your child is unsure of what a complete breakfast or lunch is please direct them to speak with the food service staff. We are all here to help make everyone's meal experience great. Please check out the Sparta Food Service website <https://www.spartaschools.org/departments/menus/> to access menus, nutrition resource's, a la carte prices, education benefit forms, how to deposit funds to students meal accounts, and all food related questions.



## Education Benefit Forms

Please complete an Education Benefit form if you have not done so or if you have not received a letter stating your family qualifies for benefits. We need this form completed annually or anytime families income changes. We only need one form per household. Filling out these forms may help provide EBT Benefits, waived fees for sports and admission's for tests, along with resources for classrooms , teachers, and children. Please complete the form through the attached link <https://sparta.familyportal.cloud/benefits/onlyapplying>

## Events & Fun Days to Look Forward to this Month

- September 5<sup>th</sup> -  
National Cheese Pizza Day
- September 18<sup>th</sup> -  
National Cheeseburger Day
- September 25<sup>th</sup> –  
Food Service Workers Day
- September 26<sup>th</sup> –  
National Pancake Day
- September 27<sup>th</sup> –  
Chocolate Milk Day



DIRECTOR OF DINING SERVICES:

Melissa Alley  
616-887-1744

[Melissa.alley@spartaschools.org](mailto:Melissa.alley@spartaschools.org)

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### Discovery Kitchen:

We are excited to kick off the month of September with a focus on teaching students how to fuel their bodies with nutritious foods through a Power Your Performance theme. This is the first theme of the school year in the Discovery Kitchen series of interactive food and nutrition education. From competitive athletes working to achieve peak performance, to any student looking to power through their active day, chef demonstrations and interactive events will show students how eating the right foods can help them perform at their best and stay ahead of the game. In September, chefs and dietitians will organize Discovery Kitchen experiences in the cafeteria and classrooms with interactive ways students can taste and learn all about performance foods.



### National Hispanic Heritage Month 2024 September 15<sup>th</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>

"Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. "The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402. "The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period."



### Chef Appreciation Week September 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Ten years ago, Donald and Lisa Crutch co-founded Chef Appreciation Week to honor and recognize all those serving in the culinary industry. In 2018, Compass Group USA partnered with the Crutch family to celebrate Chef Appreciation Week in our cafés and restaurants nationwide. In 2019, When Donald Crutch unexpectedly passed away, Compass Group pledged to carry on his legacy with a commitment to make it a global campaign. Today, Chef Appreciation Week is now the largest celebration of chefs and culinarians globally, supported across 30+ Compass countries as well as externally by other food and hospitality businesses.



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### Chartwells Cheers:

The start of the new school year is the perfect time to revisit our cheers program. This is a program by Chartwells that celebrates with our frontline associates! Each month we will be recognizing our employees and spotlighting them in our newsletters!

## A Reason to Celebrate!

### September 5: National Cheese Pizza Day

On September 5th, National Cheese Pizza Day says, "Hold the toppings!" That's right, cheese is all you need when celebrating this pizza holiday.

### September 18: National Cheeseburger Day

National Cheeseburger Day on September 18th honors America's favorite sandwich with a slice of cheese.

### September 25: Food Service Workers Day

This day is celebrating the ones who make sure that every student gets a nutritious meal to fuel their day.

### September 26: National Pancake Day

National Pancake Day was created in 2005 by Marianne Ways and Collen AF Venable as an excuse to eat pancakes and waffles with friends.

### September 27: Chocolate Milk Day

While this beverage can be spotted in any lunchroom in the United States, it actually has Jamaican origins. That's right — Jamaica gave us ginger beer AND chocolate milk. This chocolatey goodness can be traced back to the 1400s, and its popularity continues to increase. In fact, the global chocolate milk market is forecasted to grow at a rate of 3.6% between 2019 and 2024.