

Lunch line grows for tacos, nuggets

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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What are the most popular school lunch offerings?

Gothenburg Public Schools food service manager Joni Jacobsen said tacos and chicken nuggets seem to be the most popular entree for grades K-12.

Least favorite foods are hard to measure, she said, because large numbers of students may be gone during lunchtime on a certain day or may decide to frequent the salad, soup and sandwich bar instead of choosing a main entree.

Students grades 5-12 have access to a salad, soup and sandwich bar while elementary-aged kids only receive the daily entree.

“Whatever we’re having, students should be able to find something they like,” Jacobsen said. “And we keep trying different things.”

Jacobsen said parents can help get their kids to eat healthier by encouraging them to eat different foods such as vegetables and introducing them to new main courses.

She noted that it often takes 10 times to introduce a child to a new food before it’s accepted.

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“Start with just a bite.”

Throughout the morning, the school kitchen and cafeteria buzz with activity.

About a third of the student body shows up before school begins for breakfast in the cafeteria.

“I’d love to see more kids eat breakfast,” she said.

Mid morning, junior and senior high school students can choose brunch items from carts wheeled outside classrooms.

Students pay for before-school breakfast and lunch by punching a personal number into a computer.

Brunch items are checked off a roster for each class and put into

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What is your favorite thing about school lunch?						
	CASSY CALLAHAN Third grade	OLIVIA LYNCH Third grade	ALLISON NICHOLS Fourth grade	MASSON MENDELL Third grade	STEVEN SAM Senior	BRANNNDON McMICHAEL Senior
	"Pizza."	"Hot ham and cheese."	"Cinnamon bread sticks."	"Pizza, tator tot casserole."	"Milk."	"I don't like anything about school lunch."
	"Don't put cheese on the green beans."	"Change the tator tot casserole to something like hot dogs."	"Change it so we get salad bar."	"Nothing."	"Do something to make it less bland. Make it hotter."	"Have on-campus restaurants like McDonald's and Subway."
	If you change something about the school lunch program, what would it be?					