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Antioch Unified School District's Post

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Welcome to our new mini series – Behind the Scenes. It takes a big team to run Antioch Unified School District. Many of them are unassumingly helping make it bright for more than 16,000 students. Today's featured group is Nutrition Services.
Lead: Stephanie Siemering, Director of Nutrition Services.
Responsibilities of this department: Nutrition Services provides free breakfast, lunch, supper, and snacks to students throughout the school year. Last school year alone, we served 2.8 million meals and snacks.
During the summer when school is not in session, we continue to offer free breakfast and lunch in all areas of Antioch for children 18 and under. Our scratch-cooked items are prepared in the Central Kitchen at Deer Valley High School and distributed to the schools.
We are committed to serving healthy, delicious and safe meals. All food is purchased from reputable vendors and every Nutrition Services Lead and Supervisor in our cafeteria hold ServSafe Manager certifications. A large portion of our fresh fruits and vegetables are California grown with a rotating selection of Harvest of the Month items. (Recently), students will enjoyed tasting persimmons in the cafeteria.
How many employees?: We have 118 employees.
The veteran of our group is Shari Armstrong, Nutrition Services Assistant II at Antioch High School. She has worked in the department since October 1994.
Why it matters: Studies show the healthiest meals students receive throughout the day are from their school cafeteria, and that's true of the food we serve. We provide all the essential meal food components - milk, fruit, vegetables, meat or meat alternate, grains and bread following USDSA standards tailored to each age group. When students are well-nourished, they're better prepared to learn and succeed in school.
Best part of the job: Menu planning is a creative and delicious process. It's fun introducing students to new foods they haven't tried before. Some recent additions include Swedish Meatballs and Filipino Chicken Adobo. Hearing students ask when a favorite item will be served again is my favorite feedback. It means we fulfilled the assignment.
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