

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS PROGRAM!

Carole Blakeman, Former Food Service Director for Big Horn CSD #1

I just wanted to give you an update on our FFVP and the After-School Snack Programs in Big Horn County School District #1. THE STUDENTS ARE LOVING THEM!!!! The teachers are telling me that all of the students K - 12 have better concentration after the mid-morning fruit break. The younger students stop me in the hallways and ask what kind of fruit they get today!! We've already tried 2 - 3 different kinds of fruit that were new to everyone. I will be introducing some vegetables and more and different kinds of both fruits and vegetables. One school did not have enough cooler room to store enough fruit to give the students 5 days a week. The solution to this problem was to get them a new refrigerator that will hold the balance of the fruit order so they can participate 5 days a week. (Note: up to 10% of your funding can be spent on the administration of this program and on supplies.) All in all, we think everything is going GREAT!!!

I will definitely continue this program. We are definitely in a high poverty area and many of these kids have never experienced much for fresh fruits or vegetables. I can tell you I witnessed a first grade student taste a plum for the first time. He told his teacher first that he didn't like them. She told him to try it and then if he didn't like it, he could give it to her. He bit a small bite and made a grimace face. The teacher told him to take a bit of the "flesh" of the plum. At that point, he decided he really liked it and ate the whole thing!!! One of the funnier aspects of the fruit is that many students K-3 have "many loose teeth." They request that we cut the apples or pears in half so they can still eat them!!



Joe DiPrisco, Food Service Director for Teton CSD #1

I am not sure who to thank, but the FFVP program is a great program. Our two schools are really enjoying it and I am even surprised how much the kids are embracing it. The teachers are so happy to have this opportunity to expose their students to new snacks. I suppose I forget sometimes that some kids just don't get the right things at home and a plum can really excite them! I am really happy I applied for this grant and appreciate all you and the rest of your staff have done to implement this program.

Jule Cattellier, Food Service Staff Member for Natrona CSD #1

One of my assigned schools received the grant for the fruit and vegetables. It has been so much fun for us at Pineview. Every morning we have an announcement for the produce of the day and a bit of information concerning where the produce is grown and the nutritional value of the fruit or vegetables. The students are enjoying the variety of items and I have been amazed that the kindergarten and first grade classes are tasting the produce and often ask for more. It was mentioned that more schools might be added to the program. If that is a possibility, I would like to have my other assigned school involved.

Denise Scott, Food Service Director for Park CSD #16

Our FF&V program has really become a success. All grades and teachers like the program. Elementary students have their snack in their classroom and I send an information sheet on the fruit or vegetable if the students aren't familiar with the item, which the teachers use for discussions. We have had a wide variety of items such as jicama, snap peas, carnival cauliflower, carroteenies, blackberries, blueberries, clementines, satsumas, oranges, many varieties of apples, grapes, and melons. At first some students were hesitant about trying new items, but as the year progresses, the students are willing to try new snacks. The participation is high. Teachers at all grade levels find the program not only nutritious, but informational also. Students and staff are both benefiting from this program. The program has evolved differently than I first envisioned. I thought I would be spending more time in the classroom, but the teacher find the information sheets handy and useful.



Diane Filicetti, Staff Member for Sweetwater CSD #2

I just wanted to give you an update. Three days a week I have counseling groups at 10:00 and I pick up the snack to give to the kids in my groups. The groups have 6, 9 and 10 kids respectively so I get to see lots of kids responses to the snacks. At the beginning of the year, there were many kids who passed, particularly if it was a new or unusual fruit or vegetable. Now, I rarely have even 1 child pass on the snack no matter what it is. The program has been extremely successful at getting kids to try new things and developing a liking for healthy snacks! Kudos to you and your staff for such a wonderful addition to our schools. I know it is extra work but it is definitely paying off.

Carole Blakeman, Former Food Service Director for Big Horn CSD #1

We continue to be a success story with the FFVP in all 4 of our schools. They kids come up and thank me personally for all the fruit – many of these kids don't get fresh fruit at all at home. I have parents – many of whom I don't know but are from across our district – stop me at various school functions and thank me profusely for the enjoyment their kids get from the fruit. Our teachers all sing the praises of this program and continue to say they can really tell a difference in the students' ability to concentrate and learn after they've had the fruit snack in the morning. I've not had anyone say a negative word about the whole program. Some principals have even changed their schedules a little so the kids have a more convenient time to receive the fruit. We bought a new refrigerator without a freezer at all for one of our schools so they could store enough fruit to serve 5 days a week. We will be purchasing some dorm size refrigerators for a few classrooms so the teachers can store their fruit for the right serving time.