

A Quick Look at Cafeteria Taste Tests!

Set Goals!

- Testing or promoting a new menu item?
- Encouraging students to try vegetables different ways?
- Promote local foods?

Select a date and promote your event.

- Schedule a date with the Food Service Director (FSD) and get the principal on board!
 - Be mindful of scheduling conflicts! (A half day, another cafeteria event, etc.)
- Make morning announcements the week leading up to the event and on the day of
- Use posters throughout school advertising the date, featured product, and where it came from

Recruit Volunteers!

Extra hands are useful to help pass out samples/collect votes

- Students from each class/lunch wave
- Parents from PTA
- Teachers, lunch monitors, administration
- Local Organization or College Students

The Day Of...

Prepare samples and determine the best way to distribute!

- On the lunch line! (May miss students who their own bring lunch)
- Separate station where students can pick up a sample one table at a time.
- Rolling cart (Students stay in their seats)
- Conduct a classroom taste test if cafeteria isn't an option!
- Pass out recipe cards to teachers and students

Make an announcement/newsletter to share info about the featured item.

Collect votes and share the results!

- 3 common categories used:
LOVED it, Liked it, or Tried it/Not today/Maybe another day

Tally votes using...

- Jars to collect beads, slips of paper, etc.
- Stickers on a poster board to hang in cafeteria
- Visual cues (Thumbs up, thumbs down, thumbs sideways)

Post results in the cafeteria, on the school website/newsletter, or have them shared during morning announcements

Think about...

- Am I (and/or the volunteers) food safe? (Keeping it to temperature, wearing gloves, hairnet, etc.)
- Where/when/who will prepare the food to not inconvenience the normal lunch flow?
- Is the food coming from a local farm? Can the Farmer come to the tasting or talk to a class?
- Can you grow it in the school garden?
- Connect it to classrooms? What teachers can I involve? (healthy eating lesson, history of food being tasted, write a thank you to the farmer (if local), have students help make posters, tally votes, come up with recipes