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