



Students at Pocono Mountain School District Celebrate Farm to School Month with Cooking Demonstration and Cafeteria Menu Featuring Local Pennsylvania Foods

Elementary Schools Awarded Three Grants from Pennsylvania Farm to School Program to Support Nutrition Education and Eating Local Throughout the Year

SWIFTWATER, Pa., November 4, 2021 – Eating local has never tasted better for elementary and middle school students at Pocono Mountain School District. In partnership with Chartwells K12, the district hosted a special Farm to School lunch featuring local Pennsylvania foods and a cooking demonstration from Chartwells' Regional Executive Chef to introduce kids to a wide variety of fresh new foods and flavors while also highlighting the tremendous impact of farmers in the community.

“We are very excited to partner with Chartwells' to introduce our students to more fresh foods through the Farm to School Program,” said Dr. Elizabeth Robison, Superintendent of Schools at Pocono Mountain School District. “The creativity used to encourage students to try new fresh foods and recipes is going to really appeal to our students.”

As part of the celebration, Regional Executive Chef Gaetano Mastrangelo from Chartwells K12 hosted a virtual Discovery Kitchen cooking demonstration for a Caribbean Salad, featuring locally grown cabbage and tomatoes, and is one of the options for the special Pennsylvania Farm to School menu. Other local highlights included Picadillo, a seasoned, locally sourced beef from Happy Valley Meat, diced potatoes, gala apples, as well as milk from Pocono Mountain Dairy. The virtual cooking demonstration is featured in this video: <https://vimeo.com/630224800>.

“We're incredibly fortunate with where we're located to have access to a wide variety of local produce, meats and more,” said Stacy Eckhart, Chartwells K12 Director of Dining Services at Pocono Mountain School District. “Great food begins with the best ingredients, and kids are learning that fresh and local foods are the foundation to sustainable, healthy habits – and communities.”

In addition to their Farm to School Month celebration, Pocono Mountain School District is the recipient of three grants from the *Pennsylvania Farm to School Program*, established to provide schools with funding to improve access to healthy, local foods and increase agriculture education opportunities for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. As recipients for the 2021-2022 school year, three elementary schools in the

district will receive funds for the procurement of local produce, dairy and beef for school meals, and to create additional educational materials through Chartwells' Discovery Kitchen program to promote Farm to School to families, caregivers and the community.

About Pocono Mountain School District

Pocono Mountain School District is the largest most diverse school district in Monroe County. The district educates nearly 9,000 students in grades K to 12 in nine brick and mortar schools and through its fulltime PMSD Cyber Program.

About Chartwells K12

Chartwells K12's goal is to make sure students leave the cafeteria happier and healthier than they came in, by serving food kids love to eat and creating custom dining programs. With more than 16,000 associates in 4,500 schools, ranging from large public institutions to small charter and private schools, Chartwells K12 is built on decades of food, education and operational experience driven by top culinary, nutrition, wellness, and sustainability talent. For more information, visit www.ChartwellsK12.com.

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