



From: Steve Vessey, Superintendent
Phone: 920.885.7300
Email: vesseys@bdusd.org

Press Release

September 3, 2015

BDUSD Summer Food Service Program Serves Nearly 10,000 Meals

This summer, the Beaver Dam Unified School District (BDUSD) food service program, managed by Taher, Inc., served nearly 10,000 free meals to children up to age 18 in the community through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). In conjunction with summer school, 9,763 meals were served to children at Prairie View Elementary and Jefferson Elementary Schools, as well as at the Dodge County YMCA, from June 15th through August 15th (plus an additional 242 to adults who purchased theirs).



Children need healthy food all year long. During the school year, many children receive free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. When school lets out, many of these children are at risk of hunger. Hunger is one of the most severe roadblocks to the learning process. Lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins again and make children more prone to illness and other health issues. The SFSP is designed to fill that nutrition gap and make sure children get the nutritious meals they need.

In Beaver Dam, Chef Chris Marks and Food Service Director Kevin Dresdow created menus of nutritious and delicious meals. Lunches featured favorites like cheese pizza, burgers, chicken nuggets, as well as fresh fruits and vegetables. “I am amazed at how delicious and healthy the food choices are,” stated one parent.

Dodge County YMCA Director Jen Krueel was very enthusiastic about the partnership between the Y and the school district, commenting that “Our Y was thrilled to be a partner site for the Beaver Dam Unified School District’s Summer Lunch Program. This program provided free hot lunches daily for hundreds of youth in our community. The children from our Y day camp and swim lesson programs, along with the many youth that rode their bikes here, truly enjoyed the lunches and the changing menu items. The parents, especially those that work throughout the day, commented on how much they appreciated the opportunity for their children to have a hot and healthy lunch each and every weekday. This free summer lunch program, which is open to all youth, was received well and definitely provided positive outcomes in youth development and healthy living—of which our Y was thankful to be a part of.”

Through the financial support of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the BDUSD was able to provide these meals at no cost to children this summer. The program is a federally funded program under the USDA and managed at the state level by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The SFSP is an extension of the National School Lunch Program and serves healthy meals to children and teens in low-income areas at no charge primarily during the summer months when school is not in session.