

Food Service: What is Offer vs. Serve?

Each day over 100 students eat lunch in our school cafeteria. Orchestrating this amazing feat is Mrs. Bobbie Jo Gunderson our kitchen manager and our assistant cook Mrs. Brooke Savage. Mrs. Gunderson has worked at Gallatin Gateway School for several years and has received specialized training to ensure our students receive a well-balanced healthy meal each day.

Gallatin Gateway School participates in the “Offer versus Serve” program. Offer versus serve is a regulation that allows students in any grade level to choose fewer than all of the food items within the breakfast and lunch menus planned. Under this regulation students must be offered all five food items at lunch, but may refuse any two. During breakfast, students are offered four food items and one item may be refused. One important point to note is that one of the food items students choose must be a fruit or a vegetable each day. For example, if the school is having Pasta Alfredo, green beans, whole wheat rolls, fruit and milk for lunch, students can choose the following: Pasta Alfredo, green beans and milk **or** Pasta Alfredo, fruit and milk.

There are many reasons that Gallatin Gateway School follows the “offer versus serve” program, most importantly, it increases customer satisfaction by giving students some say in what is put on their tray each day. In addition, students eat more of their lunch which reduces food waste, and in turn, reduces food costs for the food service program.

Once, students have eaten their entire meal they may receive a second helping of the entrée and/or other items offered. Many students take advantage of this opportunity each day and it is included in the cost of the lunch. However, if students would like seconds on milk they must bring a quarter to purchase a second milk.

The cafeteria staff offers meat and cheese sandwiches in place of the entrée for students in the event that they did not like the main course of the meal. When students choose to have a sandwich, they can not receive main entrée seconds, like they would if they had chosen the main course. However, they can get seconds on the fruit, vegetable, or other items offered.

The Gallatin Gateway School food program is a great asset to students, families and staff because each meal is prepared in our kitchen each day by our food service staff. Everyone who buys a meal in the cafeteria receives a “home-cooked” meal, often with homemade rolls or breads. Gallatin Gateway School is proud of its food program and the individuals that have made the food service program successful.

Parents can assist the food program at Gallatin Gateway School by participating in the Federal Free and Reduced lunch program yearly or monthly. Your participation brings benefits to our food service program and also assists in the grants our school receives. For more information call 763-4415.