

Sparta Area Schools Food Services Newsletter

October 2025

We've Made It Through Our First Full Month of School!

Time sure flies, and October gives us plenty of reasons to celebrate!

•National Farm to School Month

We'll be celebrating with our **Annual Apple Crunch Event** on **October 21st**. Food Service will supply fresh Michigan apples to all students and staff, and each participating building will "crunch" together at the same time. This event is a great way to spark classroom conversations about where food comes from, family food traditions, and even the issue of hunger.

•Sparta Area Schools is also proud to be a **10 Cents a Meal Grantee**, which helps us purchase more locally grown produce. Be sure to check out our menus this month to see what Michigan-grown foods we're serving!

•Custodian Appreciation Day – October 2nd

Take a moment to thank the hardworking custodians who keep our schools clean and safe.

•National School Lunch Week – October 13–17

This year's theme is *Taste the World!* We'll be celebrating with fun events all week long, and Food Service will send out a flyer next week with more details. We're also excited to launch our **Global Eats Program** starting with Mexico, where students will get to try new and different menu options.

•Meal Program Update

We are still waiting on the final budget from the State of Michigan, which typically includes funding to provide free meals for students across the state. While we wait for the state's decision, **Sparta Area Schools will continue to offer free breakfast and lunch to all Sparta students**. If anything changes, the Superintendent will communicate updates right away.

•Snack & A La Carte

Snack prices have been updated. A full list of current a la carte items is available on our [Food Service Website](#) under the meal price section.



National School Lunch Week (NSLW) 2025



National School Lunch Week (NSLW) 2025 will be celebrated from October 13-17, 2025. The theme for NSLW 2025 is "Taste the World: Your School Lunch Passport." As our student population becomes increasingly diverse, it is essential to embrace and celebrate this rich tapestry of cultures. "Taste the World: Your School Lunch Passport" invites students to experience and appreciate global cuisines, fostering a sense of connection and understanding. Look for our menu items this week that highlight different cuisines from around the world. In each of our buildings, we have fun activities for the week! Students who participate by getting a full complete lunch and get involved with our fun days for the week, have the chance to win prizes!



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Dates to Remember:

October 1st – Count Day

October 1st -Vegetarian Day

October 2nd -Custodian Day

October 3rd -World Smile Day

October 6th -National Noodle Day

October 13th – 17th – National School Lunch Week

October 16th – ½ Day

October 17th – No School

October 21st – National Apple Day & Michigan Apple Crunch!

October 27th – Potato Day

October 30th – National Candy Corn Day

October 31st - Halloween

chartwells
serving up happy & healthy

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Middle School Lunch Celebration

Our middle school staff enjoyed a special treat—lunch was catered in!

At our back-to-school meeting this summer, each building took part in team-building exercises and games. To keep things fun and motivating, we added prizes for the winners:

- 🏆 **1st Place:** A catered lunch of their choice
- 🏆 **2nd Place:** A catered breakfast of their choice
- 🏆 **3rd Place:** Melissa and Amberly taking over a job for the day (dishes, serving, stocking, or inventory!)

Congratulations to our middle school team for taking 1st place and enjoying their well-deserved prize. We love finding ways to celebrate our staff and keep the energy high!



Global Eats:



Chartwells is trying something new! Global Eats is a program that allows students to try food from different countries. Each month will feature food items from different countries on our menus. This month's country is Mexico! Dishes are simple yet packed with fresh flavors like lime and cilantro and the heat of peppers and spices. Some of our highlighted recipes include Pozole, Albondigas con Arroz, and Elotes-style corn.



Michigan Apple
Crunch Day
Oct. 21, 2025

Michigan Apple Crunch:

The Michigan Apple Crunch is an annual event hosted by MSU Extension and the Michigan Farm to Institution Network to promote National Farm to School Month and celebrate the iconic Michigan Apple. Thousands of participants from K-12 schools, Early Care and Education sites and other institutions and organizations across the state and Great Lakes Region register to crunch into a local Michigan apple on Crunch Day. Apples provide a great way to get local schools and institutions excited about supporting local farmers and they are a nutritious snack that is available in Michigan eleven months of the year



Chuck Yates:

Chuck has been with our district for many years, serving as our delivery driver. He visits all of our buildings each day to ensure staff have everything they need and also delivers meals to our Early Childhood Center and Empower U North (special education building).

What makes Chuck stand out is the extra care he gives to our students. He takes time out of his day to let them help with deliveries—a moment the students absolutely *love*. Small gestures like this make a big difference in their lives, and Chuck has shown nothing but love, patience, and dedication in every interaction. We are truly grateful for Chuck's kindness, hard work, and the positive impact he has made throughout the years.

