

AUGUST TEAM PROFILE: FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES SUPERVISORS

Variety is the Spice of Life



"No two days are alike." It is likely all of us working at Jeffco Public Schools say this often. It is in the nature of running a school district. So what does that look like if one's task is to feed almost 90,000 kids every day? Variety is the spice of life - and this team would agree that's a good thing!

Each of food and nutrition services' seven supervisors oversees a group of schools - approximately 17 each, ensuring the food service staff are able to provide nutritious meals for Jeffco students every day. Making certain cafeterias are staffed and stocked, equipment is functioning, and technology is issue-free are all in a day's work. But, there's more.

James Lesley shares, "As a supervisor, I help ensure the day-to-day operations of my school kitchens run as smoothly and seamlessly as possible. I help my employees follow district procedures and federally mandated National School Lunch Program regulations, as well as build their skills as leaders in their kitchen. My daily work is completely different every day: one day I could be preparing new signage for menu items and helping troubleshoot issues from my desk, and the next I could be out at a school performing an on-site review or helping prepare and serve meals to our students. I typically spend most of my time out at schools. This helps me see their work in progress and allows me to provide feedback to their operations in the moment."

Through all this, they also have to work to make each site financially successful. "Each and every day brings new and challenging things such as staffing issues, equipment outages, parent concerns, technology issues, and answering numerous calls and emails. My goal is to have all my schools be successful and profitable," Lori Burris says.

Not unlike many others in our organization, these supervisors came to one conclusion when asked about the most challenging part of their job: staffing. Which makes the other challenges even more so - when you have frequent turnover or not enough staff, getting everyone up to speed with the mission and regulations is a constant push. As Mr. Lesley puts it, "Our work is determined heavily by federal and state regulations that can become very confusing...it's difficult to get everyone to understand why we do what we do and why we do things the way we do them." Then there is the food. "Nutrition is a subjective topic and people have various opinions about what is considered the 'best diet.' There are limitations in school nutrition, which makes pleasing everyone difficult," Sarah Kimiecik reveals.



So what are they looking forward to for 2019 - 20? Just like most of #TeamJeffco, this team feels a bit of excitement for a new school year and is ready to reconnect with staff, students, and families and explore fresh ideas for accomplishing their goals. Mostly, they are looking forward to a new software rollout. They will begin using PrimeroEdge, an integrated school nutrition software that will bring together the point-of-sale, inventory, and warehousing systems to allow for easier and more accurate reporting.

What about variety away from work? Among this group, we have employees who have been with Jeffco for 2 months all the way up to 30 years. Some are parents and grandparents; others are hikers, four-wheelers, bakers, and cooks. Dog lovers, wake surfers, musicians, and snowboarders. Ms. Kimiecik enjoys competitive activities like volleyball, bowling, and softball. Mr. Lesley works with D'Evelyn's marching band and Lakewood High's indoor percussion program.

There is a lot of talk in Jeffco about pride, history, generations, and our meaningful mission to serve our community. These supervisors express the same feelings! Their favorite part of the job? Helping school staff accomplish *their* jobs. Providing guidance, supporting and relating to each other, and working with a diverse group of staff, community partners, and even students are sources of joy for this team. Their points of pride? "Working in my community," "the support we show our community," and "the opportunity to reach and make an impact on such a large community" are sentiments shared from all seven. Jen Mazey, Coordinator of Schools (and their boss) sums it up "I feel so lucky to work with such talented people, not only in FNS, but also in every other department."

That variety mentioned before - this group loves it. As one supervisor says, "My favorite part of the job is the variety I have in my day-to-day work. Every day is different which helps me stay interested and engaged."



Thanks to these supervisors for embracing the variety and working to support our schools and families!
Have a great year, team!

L - R: Sarah Kimiecik, Juli Jenicek, Lori Burris, Miranda Martin, Ken Holtsnider, Geri Coleman, Jen Mazey, James Lesley