

# Oak Park School District Food Services Newsletter

November 2025



## 🔥 Student Mystery Cook-Off at Nova Academy! 🔥

Last month, Nova Academy turned up the heat with an unforgettable **Mystery Cook-Off Challenge!** The twist? Every dish had to feature the **secret ingredient: pumpkin**. From savory creations to sweet surprises, our talented students wowed us with their creativity and culinary skills.

### 🏆 The Results:

**First Place:** Took home a **\$50 prize!**

**Three Runners-Up:** Each received a **\$25 gift card** for their amazing efforts.

This event was a fantastic way to celebrate teamwork, creativity, and the joy of cooking. Stay tuned—more delicious competitions are coming soon!



*Chili Days,*  
**WARM BELLIES**



## Chili Days, Warm Bellies

It's all about the comfort of chili, casseroles, stews & spicy favorites.

## DISCOVERY KITCHEN FUN

### Let's Get Cooking

This November, we're embracing the joy of scratch cooking and the tradition of preparing meals together. In our cafeteria, we'll showcase the rich flavors of homemade dishes and inspire students to recreate some of our favorite recipes at home with family and friends. With the holiday season just around the corner, it's the perfect time to spark excitement about cooking and sharing meals together!

#### Join Us for Discovery Kitchen at Lessenger!

Experience the fun of hands-on cooking as we make delicious homemade pickles. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, taste, and celebrate the art of cooking from scratch!

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# Discovery KITCHEN



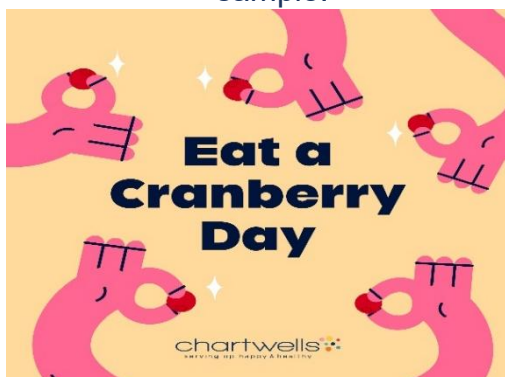
## LET'S GET COOKING



Qiana Rowell is this Month's Spotlight leader! "Q" as we affectionally call her, has been a dedicated and faithful employee for Oak Park Schools for 19 years! Q is the Kitchen Manager at OPPA and has excelled in bringing fresh and new ideas to the students. Q has changed the breakfast program at OPPA offering hot breakfast everyday while keeping some of the favorites like pop-tarts and muffins. This has led to an increase in the breakfast program. Qiana is the sparkplug to the Food service Department. She gets everyone excited to come to work and if you're down her spirit will pick you back up! Thank you for all you do!!

## FUN DAYS THIS MONTH:

Make sure to stop by the salad bar on November 21 for a sample!



Every Monday, Oak Park serves meatless options at all sites!



Enjoy your holiday with family and friends! Be safe!





# Teaching Lessenger Preschool how to make Pumpkin Pie!



## Class of 2026 pumpkin decorating contest





Please Join Us! Students Welcome!



# COOKING WITH CHEF AUSTIN

**FREE COOKING CLASSES  
FOR OAK PARK PARENTS**

**DATE: EVERY MONDAY UNTIL  
DECEMBER 15TH**

**TO REGISTER, CALL OR EMAIL:**

**E: [AUSTIN.JACKSON@OPSK12.ORG](mailto:AUSTIN.JACKSON@OPSK12.ORG)**

**TIME: 4-5:30 P.M.**

**P: (248) 336-7761**

**LOCATION: NOVA ACADEMY**

Let's build community while  
learning new vegetarian  
recipes!



- Do we offer soy Milk, Yes! Please ask one of our kitchen staff!
- Are menus online? Yes. Please visit, <https://oakparkschools.nutrislice.com/>

Elementary Breakfast  
8:15am – 8:45am

Secondary Breakfast  
8:00am – 8:30am

Elementary Lunch  
11:00am-1:00pm

Secondary Lunch  
10:47am – 1:26pm



## *Life's Little* **CELEBRATIONS**

### **Welcome New Staff Family**

Faith Latham  
De-Aysia Anderson  
Leanne Crisher  
Lynnisha Mitchell

### **Employees of the Month**

Tracy Neal  
Maxine Williams  
Dazhane Miller  
Tina Hilson  
Raquel Moore

### **Employees Birthdays**

Tyler Edwards  
Tremaine Lewis