

POWER UP YOUR PROGRAM!

Griffin School District

Tawnya White,
Child Nutrition Supervisor



With a commitment to scratch-cooking and incorporating local foods like salmon and bison, Tawnya and her team regularly create opportunities for Griffin Elementary students to try new flavors and learn about the foods they are eating.

During Power Up Your Program, Tawnya took this a step further by making the kitchen a learning laboratory. Over the spring, fifth-grade students joined her in the kitchen to help cook the daily entrée or prepare a recipe to taste-test with their classmates. Students learned about school meals from a different perspective while making oatmeal pancakes, very berry sauce, carrot soufflé, taco soup, and fruit parfaits.

Tawnya channeled her passion for food and scratch-cooking into the initiative and students and teachers loved the experience. Looking ahead, she hopes to expand the experience to other grades and is excited to work with teachers to explore more ways to engage their students.

Project Highlights

- Students were excited to get hands-on in the kitchen and prepare scratch-cooked items for lunch or taste-tests.
- When sharing taste-test items with their peers, the student presented on the ingredients, how it was prepared, and what foods could be served with it to make a balanced school meal.
- The one-to-one time in the kitchen inspired conversations about cooking, school meals requirements, and foods that students enjoy with their families.
- Tawnya would like to extend the opportunity to middle school students and hold more taste-tests for Griffin's early elementary students to encourage more adventurous eating.



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