

Wapato School District

Magieline Benedicto
Food Service Director



After completing Power Up Your Program in school year (SY) 2024–25, Magieline opted to join the course again for SY 2025–26 in her new role as the Food Service Director at Wapato School District. As a Wapato graduate herself, she was excited to engage students and build relationships with district staff and administration.

Magieline completed the Opportunity Map from the Power Up Your Program Toolkit and was inspired to forge connections with the high school culinary class. With enthusiastic partnership from the culinary instructors, Magieline worked with students to select more varied menu options with diverse cultural influences. Throughout the year, the class developed and sampled recipes that completed each cultural unit they studied. Students explored a variety of cuisines, including Hawaiian, Filipino, Italian, Japanese, and several others.

In the Spring, the culinary students shared their favorite recipes with Magieline. The winning dishes were honey garlic chicken, chicken adobo, and chicken ramen. After completing nutrient analyses for each recipe, Magieline worked with Food Service staff and the culinary students to plan a tasting event at the high school. Feedback was very positive! Most students voted that they would like to see the items on the lunch menu and Magieline plans to add them to the SY 2026–27 rotation.

Project Highlights

- Partnered with advanced culinary class to identify new culturally inclusive meals.
- Analyzed and adapted the selected recipes to meet school meal program requirements.
- Students appreciated being asked to test the recipes and help shape the menu.
- In SY 2026–27, Ramen Bowls will featured on the middle and high school menus and a new chicken dish will be added for all grades.

