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Levy County Food Service employees exhibit great care



Food Service employees with the School Board of Levy County are seen in a training program conducted in a classroom at the Levy Learning Academy in Bronson.

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LEVY COUNTY -- The term Lunch Lady is an American Term for “A woman who cooks and serves food in a school cafeteria.”

The Food Service employees with the School Board of Levy County are more than that; they are caring men and women offering smiling faces, warm hugs, words of encouragement, or a boost in confidence.

When asked, “What is the best, most fulfilling part of your job?” the Food Service managers' replies reflected a unified feeling from all across Levy County.

“Hugs from the students and making a difference in their day,” Cedar Key School Food Service Manager Nancy Pelham said.

“Because when I go home at the end of the day to be with my family and prepare them dinner,” Chiefland Elementary School Food Service Manager Brenda Rolfe said, “I can have peace and comfort that me and my team made sure that no child went home hungry. I also love to see their smiling faces, hearing their cute stories, and they always have the best hugs. It will make your day!”

“The favorite part of my job is saying good morning to the students and hugging them when they put their arms out for a hug. You can always tell when they have had a bad night, and my hug just makes them feel loved!” Bronson Elementary School Food Service Manager Mary Perkins said.

“I enjoy the time with the children,” Yankeetown School Food Service Manager Marianne Sedor said. “I love the smiles on their face, the hugs I get from the elementary, and the thanks from the middle school students.”

“Getting to see them enjoy some of their favorite items and liking a new product, listening to them tell me about their day, or something they did over the weekend,” Williston Elementary School Food Service Manager Ophelia Keene said in regard to her favorite part of the job.

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“I talked to a student on the phone that graduated from BMHS two years ago and now works at Florida Credit Union. She remembered my name, knew who I was, and thanked me for all we did while she was here. That’s why I love my job!” Bronson Middle High School Food Service Manager Katherine Manuel said.

The Food Service employees can definitely put some love in the atmosphere, but they also take great pride to ensure the food served to the students is prepared, cooked and served to the highest standards.

The Food Service employees are required to obtain a minimum number of hours training in food safety and nutrition standards each year. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provide a wide array of training opportunities for School Food Service departments to choose from and provide to the employees.

One of the most recent trainings - pictured below - is several employees who attended ServSafe training.



Seen here are (from left) Cindy Belcher, Merial Mills, Marianne Sedor, Charlotte Hathcox, Linda Henderson, Brenda Rolfe, Jody Caldwell, Shanna Harris, Flora Williams and Lesley Wickboldt during part of a ServSafe training session conducted at Levy Learning Academy in Bronson.

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ServSafe is an educational program covering foodborne illnesses, allergens, purchasing and receiving food guidelines, food preparation, holding temperatures, serving guidelines, pest control, food safety regulations, employee training and more. The lessons provided during the program help the employees to understand and become aware of all of the food safety risks, so that they can find ways to reduce and prevent them.

The Food Service employees with the School Board of Levy County serve the students with love. These employees value the training opportunities to learn how to keep all Levy County school children fed safely with healthy options.

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Cindy Belcher, an instructor at the University of Alabama who contracts with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, teaches a ServSafe class.