



## **Kitchen Corner**

October 29, 2009

I recently attended a seminar at the State of Minnesota's Department of Education. I learned many things that will be valuable to our lunch program. I learned that out of about 60 schools represented our school was the only one not using the state's "Offer versus Serve" option for school lunch. Currently we serve the same meal to all students and we require the students to take a serving of all offerings.

The basic principle in using "Offer versus Serve" is based on 5 meal components that should be offered every day. The lunch should contain a meat or meat alternate and a serving each of fruits, vegetables, bread, and milk. The students can choose 3, 4 or all of the five options to make it a complete meal. According to state guidelines, 3 meal components is the minimum we can offer. We, as a school, can determine if we want to require the students to take more than that. We also have the option of having different requirements based on student's age.

On Wednesday, November 4, 2009 we will have a scheduled state visit to review our school lunch program. We know we want to implement "Offer vs. Serve" to our students. Since we began separating fruits and vegetables from the regular waste, we realized we have to do more to contain costs. One benefit to Offer vs. Serve is there is much less food waste.

I would like to start using O vs. S on Monday, November 2, 2009 so we have a chance to get feedback from the state auditor on Wednesday, November 4, 2009. It will take a while to educate ourselves and volunteers to this you m system. I hope the auditor can help us get started.

Some of you have children in other schools that are used to "Offer vs. Serve" and are already familiar with this process. We want parents to be comfortable with it. "Offer vs. Serve" will not change the quality of the food we serve or the opportunity for the student to choose every item available. This may also allow us to offer more choices to the students. We hope it will make us more efficient and be more cost effective. Watch the Daily Bulletin for the meeting date.

Mary Camitsch