

Regional School Unit #34 Food Service

Alton, Bradley, & Old Town

Stephanie A. Salley, Food Service Director

156 Oak Street - Old Town, ME 04468 - (207) 827-3908 - Fax (207)

827-3925

stephanie.salley@rsu34.org



November 18, 2020

Highlights...because there are some! This has been a year when many things are not going our way, and when it has sometimes been very hard to notice, much less appreciate, the things that are going well.

Beginning on October 29th, we began providing meals at remote locations once each week. Each child receives meals based on the number of days they are not in school.

Including our five schools, we are providing meals in seventeen locations.

We served about 12,000 meals in September and just over 18,000 meals in October.

Obviously, students are eating indoors more now that the weather is changing, but ***there have been some good days, even in November, when students have been seen outside studying and eating lunch on the lawn.***

Staffing our kitchens has been an issue this year. We lost several people over the summer due to retirement, babies, transfers, etc. Finding new staff has been a challenge during this time, but we are still working on it and the people that we currently have are working hard to keep up with the demands and the changes. ***We have very dedicated people in all corners of RSU #34!***

Our challenge this year has been to deliver several different types of meals, including hot, homemade, grab and go, and tv-dinner-style packaged meals that are freshly made and easy to serve or freeze, to locations outside of the cafeterias. Who knew school cafeterias would need to serve and deliver like this? Who knew ***any*** of us, (food service staff, teachers, custodians, special ed, administrators...the list goes on...) would be serving our students and families in the manner that we are currently serving them? ***We are learning as we go, turning on a dime, and meeting many challenges successfully.*** We have purchased sealers so that we can prepare the meals and store them to be delivered safely in either a frozen state to families of remote learners, or heat and deliver them to classrooms for immediate consumption. We have been doing this at OTHS for a few weeks but just received sealers for LMS and OTHS as well. It makes food easier to store, heat, transport, and serve, for us as well as for families. It also makes it much more likely that the meals will get to their destination intact.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call or email.

***Give Thanks and Have a Happy Thanksgiving,
Stephanie***