



Breakfast Pilot Program At Brookside Elementary School

Research shows that increased school breakfast program participation is associated with better academic test scores, daily attendance, and class participation, as well as reductions in student absences and tardiness. However, getting food to students is not always a simple task.

Last school year, Brookside Elementary School implemented a successful breakfast in the classroom program with the goal of increasing student participation and ensuring all students start their day ready to learn and succeed.

Thanks to Norwalk Grows and FoodCorps, Norwalk Public Schools was provided with the opportunity to apply for a mini-grant through Share Our Strength/No Kid Hungry to pilot a grab 'n go breakfast model. Instead of serving breakfast in the cafeteria, the grant helped pay for a cart filled with food that students could grab on their way into class in the morning.

With support from school leaders, Norwalk's FoodCorps Service Member led the effort to organize school stakeholders in rolling out a breakfast program. Additional partners included Whitson's food service staff, faculty, custodial staff and 5th grade student leaders.

The amazing Brookside staff embraced the concept and worked with the Norwalk FoodCorps "Breakfast Brigade Team" to provide adequate time for students to eat and teachers to start instruction.

The impact of this program was substantial, with 40 students participating in school breakfast per day before the pilot, to an average of 120 students per day as a result.

The Board of Education is proud to honor the following representatives, who helped make this program a success.

Honorees

Lisa Lenskold Director of Norwalk Grows, **Dawn Crayco**, FoodCorps CT Program Director, **Ailish Dennigan**, FoodCorps Service Member, served with Norwalk Grows in 2016-17 Program Year, **Sandra Faioes**, Principal at Brookside