

JERSEY FRESH™

Farm to School

A Quarterly Newsletter from the NJ Department of Agriculture
Farm to Everything Program

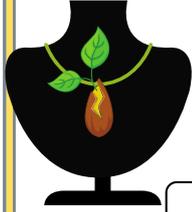
JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL SPIRIT WEEK SEPT. 25TH - 29TH, 2023

Muddy Monday

- ✓ Plant seeds and watch them grow!



HOW TO MAKE A Seed Necklace



ACTIVITY

VIDEO



Climate Change Standards

Tasting Tuesday

- ✓ Feature Jersey Fresh produce in a tasting or on the menu



TASTE TEST STICKERS

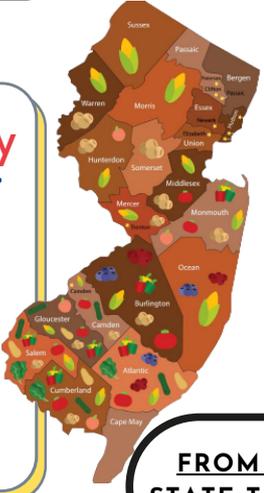
Wellness Wednesday

- ✓ Become a "Farm to School" chef - use MyPlate and NJ Seasonality Chart to create a "Cool Food Menu" item



Traveling Thursday

- ✓ Map out how far your lunch food has traveled or plan a Farm to Table lunch using a NJ map



NJ FARMER TRADING CARDS

FROM THE GARDEN STATE TO YOUR PLATE

Farmer Friday

- ✓ Dress up as a farmer.
- ✓ Invite a farmer or food producer to eat with students in the lunchroom.



TOP TOMATO FALL 2023



SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON THOSE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN FARM TO SCHOOL

If you are looking for inspiration as you jump back into a new school year, look no further than this fall's Top Tomato, **Arlethia Brown!**

Arlethia, Sr. Director of School Nutrition for Camden City School District, is leading a dynamic nutrition program for Camden students and their community.

Ms. Brown has created a school culture that centers student input and feedback on the school menus. Are you curious as to what students are requesting for their school lunch? Ms. Brown and her team have found the recipe for success. Serving locally grown and culturally inclusive food in federal nutrition programs has cultivated a nourishing platform that truly fits her students.

Embracing a whole-school and whole-community approach, Arlethia's nutrition team brings Farm to School principles to life! This was highlighted during Camden City School



District's Earth Day Celebration - their first annual, "Local Foods and Sustainability Festival." The event gathered together some of the school district partners such as, FoodCorps, Campbell Full Futures, & the Common Market. The school featured local produce, growers, activities in gardening, seed starting, and allowed guests to enjoy music as well as food - provided by Whitson's Culinary Group.

When asked about their program mission, it is clear that Arlethia and her team are building something special in Camden.



What is their aim?

"To encourage and contribute to the development of our students and community. It is our mission to provide nutritious, appetizing, and quality meals in a healthy and courteous manner. Promoting healthy options and providing breakfast after the bell, school breakfast, school/after school snack, dinner, and other nutrition programs assist in the overall wellness of our students."

"To provide learning environments where all student are valued, accepted, and prepared to positively impact their lives, the environment, and the world."

Arlethia's commitment to this vision, including school programs and collaborations, continues to be transformational for her students and the greater community. We are excited to celebrate Arlethia Brown as our Fall 2023 NJ Farm to School Top Tomato!



NJDA Farm to School Across the State



UPCOMING WORKSHOPS



Farm to School Professional Development workshop for educators, food service professionals, and community partners. Registration is now open!

October 11, 2023 [Click Here](#) to register in South Jersey

October 20, 2023 [Click Here](#) to register in Central Jersey

October 13, 2023* [Click Here](#) to register*

*Open to early education professionals only

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

NJ School Board Association Conference

Oct. 23-26, 2023 - Tell your superintendent & board members to visit our booth! [Click Here](#) for link to Schedule of Events

NJ School Nutrition Association Conference

Nov. 8-10, 2023 - Farm to School will lead a session titled, "Creating Climate Friendly Food Service." [Click Here](#) for link to Schedule of Events

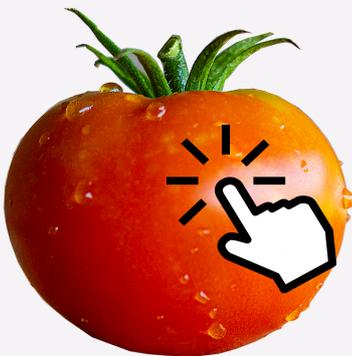


Jersey Tastes! Monthly Activity Center

September

October

November



NJ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIVISION OF FOOD & NUTRITION
JERSEY FRESH FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

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