

NUTMEGGER



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SPRING 2024

SNACT Vision

All CT students have access to nutritious school meals that promote a healthy lifestyle

SNACT Mission

Provide school nutrition professionals with tools, resources and opportunities for program success and sustainability

SNACT Values

Striving for excellence through:
Integrity
Commitment
Inclusion
Collaboration
Dedication

*Spinach, Strawberry, Feta Salad,
Naugatuck Public Schools*

**SNACT 2024
Award Winners**

Photos on page 4 & 5



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Nominating	<i>Open</i>
Program Development	Diane Wilson (C), Tracey Winzer (C) Christine Benoit, Susan Maffe, Lynne Pellegrini, Beth Pratt
Public Policy & Legislation	Maggie Dreher (C), Susan Maffe (C), Cindy Brooks, Ashley Carl, Dawn Crayco, Eileen Faustich, David Gelinias, Maureen Nuzzo, Erin Perpetua, Jeffrey Sidewater, Stuart Wisel and all regional reps
CSDE Reps	Shannon Yearwood, Greg King
CASBO Rep	Bernice Rizk

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello everyone,

Wow.. I can't believe a year has passed already and what a year it has been!

This has been such a growing year for me both professionally and personally.

I cannot thank the amazing members of this association enough for everything they brought to the association and to me personally!!

We all made our voices heard loud and clear to our legislators this past year and I know we are not done and we will be even louder!! The children of this state deserve to have all the voices speaking on their behalf.

Personally, I have felt myself grow more confident in myself and that is because of the mentorship and friendships I have received from the members of the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut.

Our membership is growing, it has been great to meet our new members and have them join us in the next chapter of the School Nutrition Association of Connecticut.

If there is one thing that I can pass onto everyone is that an open mind is a wonderful thing, we all have our own opinions on things, but if others don't agree with it, its ok!! We all are here for the purpose of doing our jobs to the best of our ability and to help the children of Connecticut! We are a family and like a family we will have our disagreements, but listening to others and having respect for their opinions is the utmost important!

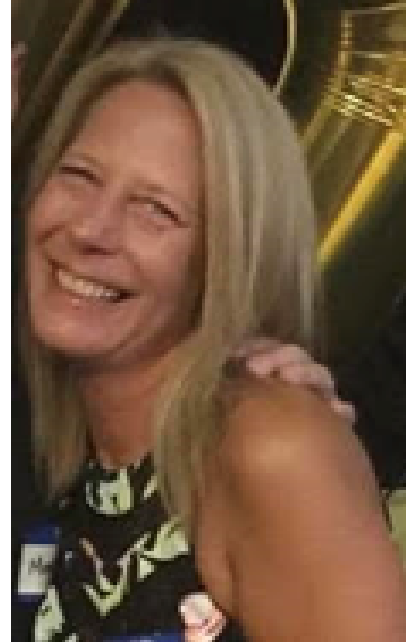
As my favorite saying goes "No Problems, Just Solutions", if we work together there will be no problems.

Listening to others, respecting others- that is the solution!!

I thank everyone for the wonderful experience I had in this officer journey, I am sad that its over, but look forward to my next chapter in Public Policy and Legislation.

Have a fantastic summer!!

Kristina Roberge, SNACT President 2023-2024
Food Service Coordinator, Groton Public Schools



2023-24 AWARD WINNERS

We are thrilled to introduce you to our
2023-2024 award winners!



Rising Star Manger - Ebbie Abbott
Cafeteria Manager Groton Public Schools Child Nutrition Program

Ebbie excels at scratch cooking, using the new braising tilt skillet - making turkey roasts, stews, casseroles, and more. "The kids really like her style of making a point to say good morning, etc at each meal period and she stands at the beginning of the line greeting them every day. She has been such a breath of fresh air always learning and helping and working patiently training her own staff to her ways of high quality, friendly, nutrition service to all that come through her lines. She also is heavily involved in our Summer Meals Program running her own production Kitchen at her school serving 225 kids based there during the Summer. She is an absolute pleasure."



Rising Star Director- Meghan Sullivan, RD, CD-N
Food Service Director, Region 15

Meghan's nomination highlights her commitment to supporting local agriculture, promoting community engagement and enhancing the nutritional value of the school meals offered in the district. She "has shown remarkable foresight by expanding the lunch menu to meet students' preferences. Innovative ideas such as made-to-order bars at the High School, featuring options like burrito bowls, walking tacos, and a waffle bar, have not only delighted students but have also encouraged healthier eating habits."



Industry Person of the Year - Melissa DeCoffe
Acxion Segment Specialist K12, New England

Melissa's "dedication to her clients extends far beyond fulfilling basic needs. It's a dedication that consistently goes above and beyond, making her an asset to the school nutrition industry. She is always available, and a constant source of guidance and support, readily troubleshooting any issue with prompt communication and a genuine willingness to help. Her proactive approach, coupled with her unwavering commitment to student well-being, truly sets her apart. She is more than a k-12 food broker; she's a champion for child nutrition".

AWARD WINNERS



Employee of the Year and the School Nutrition Association Northeast Regional Employee - Sonia DelGreco Cafeteria worker, Meriden Public Schools

Sonia is a super hero- this past year she “demonstrated exceptional leadership and resilience by stepping into a temporary cafeteria manager role for 12 weeks at the largest school in our district. During this quick transition, she successfully managed a huge increase in workload, oversaw four satellite program meal deliveries, planned numerous complicated catering events, and maintained a positive demeanor the entire time. She successfully banded the kitchen staff together through a variety of staffing challenges and shortages and was never afraid to dive in and work alongside her peers.”



Manager of the Year and the SNA Northeast Regional Manager and NATIONAL MANAGER of the YEAR - Vivian Crespo

Cafeteria Manager, Meriden Public Schools

Vivian’s “authentic, bubbly personality makes her an approachable manager with a welcoming kitchen atmosphere like no other. She shines in her role both in and outside of the kitchen. She makes a point to reach out and check on students who may be having a difficult day but also extends the same kindness to her team. She ensures any new or inexperienced cafeteria member receives proper training and is comfortable in their role before working independently. No matter who walks into her kitchen, the nominee treats everyone with the highest regard as if you were the President.”



Director of the Year- Ashley Carl, RDN Food Service Director, Plainville Community Schools

When you work with Ashley you know she is a “collaborative leader who empowers her staff to bring their ideas into the program in order to make it better” and “a true warrior for School Meals for All CT. She has worked endlessly volunteering her time to advocate for free school meals for all students in Connecticut.” Ashley “treats every person in her school community with respect and with a positive attitude. She is always smiling and pours every ounce of her passion for school nutrition into her work.”

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On May 7 2024, the CT legislature passed an ARPA supplement that included funding for students who qualify for reduced price meals to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost to them. While SNACT advocated for a continuation of universal breakfast for all students, we are thankful that students who qualify for reduced price meals can continue to receive and benefit from school meals at no cost to them or their families. Thank you to everyone who submitted testimony, testified, and advocated for all CT students. Without all your efforts none of this would be possible. We look forward to working with our legislators as we continue to advocate for students and school meals.



LAC

The CT coalition attending LAC (SNA's Legislative Action Conference) met with all of our elected Federal representatives while they were in DC.



HOT TOPICS FOR DIRECTORS

Corporate members hosted 3 Hot Topics this year!
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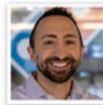
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113 servings per container	
Serving size 1 Piece	
Amount per serving	
Calories 230	
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 1g	2%
Saturated Fat 1.5g	3%
Trans Fat 0g	0%
Unsaturated Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 100mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 16g	3%
Dietary Fiber 2g	4%
Total Sugars 0g	0%
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 21g	
Vit D 6mg 12%	Calcium 20mg 2%
Iron 1.2mg 6%	Phos. 45mg 9%

Fully-Cooked, Whole Grain Breaded, Skinless and Boneless Whole Muscle Chicken Breast Fillet.
1 piece serving size provides: 2 oz. equivalent M/MA and 1.25 oz. of grain equivalent.*

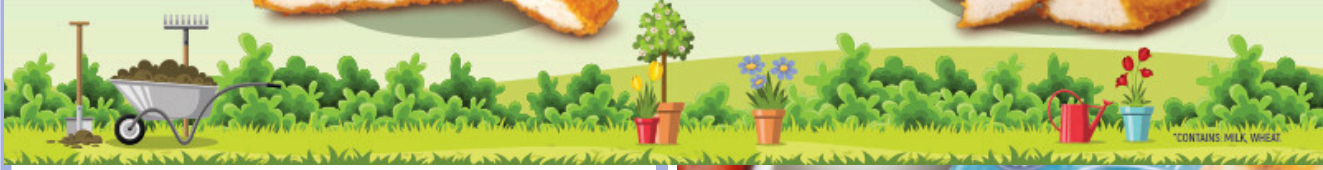


7572 | WHOLE GRAIN BREADED Chicken Breast Tenders



Nutrition Facts	
110 servings per container	
Serving size 3 Pieces	
Amount per serving	
Calories 240	
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 1g	2%
Saturated Fat 1.5g	3%
Trans Fat 0g	0%
Unsaturated Fat 0g	0%
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 100mg	2%
Total Carbohydrate 16g	3%
Dietary Fiber 2g	4%
Total Sugars 0g	0%
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 21g	
Vit D 6mg 12%	Calcium 20mg 2%
Iron 1.2mg 6%	Phos. 45mg 9%

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