

# Extreme Cafeteria Makeover

# Q&A



**How many schools applied?** Nineteen schools from around the state of Minnesota applied.

**Was there a common theme running through all 19 applications?** The applicants' cafeterias, like so many around the state, are operating with worn cookware, considerable space constraints, and less-than-appealing serving equipment, all surrounded by vintage décor (before vintage was cool). The way in which food is prepared and presented affects how students, staff, and teachers perceive and participate in eating and enjoying nutritious school meals. Every applicant would benefit from a complete makeover.

**How was a winner determined?** Judges analyzed applications, letters of support from school administrators, and "before" photographs to assess the school's vision, potential for transformation, district leadership, impact, and local support and financing.

**Who judged the applications?** The judging panel included Jean Ronnei, President of the Minnesota School Nutrition Association (MSNA) and St. Paul Public Schools Director of Nutrition and Commercial Services; Kathy Burrill, SNS, Midwest Regional Director for the School Nutrition Association (SNA) and Chisago Lakes Area Schools (MN) Food Service Director; and Katie Wilson, PhD, SNS, SNA President and Onalaska (WI) Schools Nutrition Director.

**Are "before" photographs of the winning school's cafeteria available online?** Go to [www.schoolfoodserviceexpress.com](http://www.schoolfoodserviceexpress.com) or [www.learningzonexpress.com](http://www.learningzonexpress.com) to learn about the Glenville-Emmons cafeteria and vision.

**When will the makeover be completed?** The makeover will be completed by September 2009.

**Who is paying for the makeover?** Several local and national partners have offered their products and services for this makeover worth over \$40,000. LearningZoneXpress will feed students' minds with fresh nutrition education products; Duke Manufacturing will provide custom, high-quality serving equipment; inTEAM Associates will provide management consulting tailored to client needs; Cambro Manufacturing will give trays, display, and other merchandising products; Brandaids will outfit employees with custom-made uniforms. In addition, a number of local contractors and businesses have pledged their support.

**Who else is participating in the makeover?** Additional sponsors round out the team. Ritten Associates will provide merchandising solutions from the Hubert Company, and Strategic will receive and deliver the Duke equipment and Commercial Kitchen Services will install it. Several additional experts, including a commercial interior designer, a marketing and communications expert, school menu specialist, and a University of Minnesota graduate student evaluator round out the team.

**What is MSNA and how are they involved?** The Minnesota School Nutrition Association (MSNA) is an organization of over 2,700 state members and industry partners working to serve children by advancing school nutrition programs. MSNA developed the idea with LearningZoneXpress and launched it in October 2008 through a mailing to all members and Minnesota school districts.

**What can schools achieve with a remodeled cafeteria?** Makeover partners hope to measure many different outcomes including increased customer satisfaction and food service revenues, increased efficiencies, expanded menu options, and heightened school and civic pride.

**Why don't more schools upgrade their cafeterias?** Obviously, lack of financial aid is the key barrier. School districts have limited resources for facilities. Bond referendums are sometimes the answer for upgrading facilities.



MSNA is grateful to these companies for their generous contribution to the Extreme Cafeteria Makeover, but does not expressly endorse them.