

Success Story: Staff!

Staff can be hard to come by. Even getting subs to fill in has been a huge problem across the country. Some staff challenges can include them getting involved, bonding, learning, and accepting challenges/changes. Kristen Hertel, Food Service Director for Columbus Grove Local School District, has experienced these staffing challenges over the last 15 years as a Food Service Director. This past year, Columbus Grove Local School District has experienced a lot of retirements and the loss of very vital food service workers. Kristen explained, “The amount of knowledge, experience, and personal relationships with both our staff and students is not something that can be replaced”. Coming into this school year was stressful due to all of the unknown. Fortunately, this whole new crew of food service workers has been successful! “These ladies have honestly exceeded my expectations and have been super helpful day in and day out. The amount of training they all had to go through did not deter them from coming back. The early days and late afternoons (staying past “clock out time”) has never been an issue. The friendships and bonds they are creating with each other makes for a wonderful environment to work in. Their suggestions and questions show me their involvement and dedication to our department”, Kristen said. As a Food Service Department, every single position is important for success. Having every position filled with eager and hard working individuals makes a huge difference in the operations of your program as well as the way the students feel when coming through the line.

