

SHARING TABLE

Sunman-Dearborn Community School Food and Nutrition Services Department

Reducing Waste in the Lunch Room

Sunman-Dearborn Community Schools have made an important change to reduce the amount of food waste. Our schools currently utilize “Offer Versus Serve” to plan meals, reduce waste, and allow students to choose only the foods they want to eat. Menus are planned around five components, meat/meat alternatives, grains, fruits, vegetables, and milk. The Sharing Table is available to encourage sharing of unwanted items and prevent them from being thrown away.

What is a Sharing Table?

The Sharing Table is a place where students can place unopened food and drinks that they choose not to eat or drink. This provides an opportunity for other students to take additional helpings of food or beverages from the Sharing Table at no cost to them.

How does the Sharing Table Work?

Students may drop off unwanted food and drinks on the Sharing Table immediately after leaving the serving line or anytime during lunch service. If a student is still hungry after finishing his or her meal, he or she may pick-up items from the Sharing Table.

What Can Be Placed on the Sharing Table?

Pre-packaged food, unopened wrapped food and beverages, or food items with a peel.

Examples include:

- Unopened milk, cheese sticks, yogurt
- Unopened crackers, cereal, cereal bar, and chips
- Unwrapped whole fruits with an inedible peel, such as oranges or bananas.

While students are still encouraged to choose only what they will eat and eat what they choose, the Sharing Table offers an opportunity for sharing items that would otherwise be thrown away.