



MEDIA RELEASE

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“Farm to School” Program Looks to Improve Nutrition by Buying Local TCCES will purchase produce from local growers

NEENAH: Students in the Twin City Catholic Education System (TCCES) will be “eating local” during the 2009-2010 school year in an effort to improve student nutrition in the school lunch program.

“We’re hoping to procure the freshest and best produce for the TCCES students while supporting local growers,” said Lynn Graves, TCCES Director of Food Service. The TCCES Farm to School Program will connect our schools with local farms that provide the produce. We’ll not only be serving healthier meals, we’ll be providing health and nutrition education opportunities that last a lifetime.”

While the program is centered on providing the students with the freshest produce, it will also reduce waste.

“We will only accept what we can use,” said Graves. “We plan to take deliveries from our approved sources more frequently. That’s one of the benefits of using local providers; you can get just what you need when you need it.”

Graves expects the program costs to be similar to purchasing produce from conventional providers, but says the benefit to TCCES and its students is fresher produce that is grown with fewer chemicals.

“There’s also the big picture of the impact on our environment,” continued Graves. “This food will not have to be shipped long distances or chemically treated to preserve freshness. That’s also a valuable educational message for our students.”

TCCES Food Service prepares food for 600 TCCES students and 110 Head Start students daily.

Twin City Catholic Educational System (TCCES) - which includes St. Gabriel, St. Margaret Mary and St. Mary Elementary Schools, Seton Catholic Middle School and St. Mary Central High School - strives to provide the highest quality education in a faith-filled environment for children in preschool through high school.

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