

Pearl City School District March 2023 Newsletter

District Website: www.pcwolves.net

"Inspire in everyone a passion to excel"

School Board Elections

On April 4, 2023, residents of our community have the opportunity to elect three members to the Board of Education. There are five candidates running for the three open seats. In alphabetical order they are Tracy Downs, Jace Kempel, Tim Pauley, Richard Sargent, Nicole Sheffey. To help inform our community, profiles/bios have been placed on our website and included below.

Tracy Downs

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. I am Tracy Downs and I have been a resident of Pearl City since 2002. I grew up on a farm and attended kindergarten through 12th grade in Scales Mound where I graduated high school before attending Highland Community College and Loras College, in Dubuque, Iowa. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Finance from Loras in 1998 and began a career in banking that summer. In 2001, I was hired at German American State Bank in German Valley and began looking for a smaller community to buy a home and raise a family. I currently have three children in the Pearl City school district: my oldest son, Jayden, is a junior, my daughter, Kameron, is a freshman, and my youngest son, Clayton, is in 8th grade. They all started at the Pearl City daycare at the age of three and we were blessed for the before and after school care they received over the years. Throughout the entire decade in which I have had children in the district I have been involved in activities at school, made a point to meet teachers and principals, and made an effort to be a positive influence on the district.

My children are active in sports and extra-curricular activities, and I have been fortunate over the last ten years, throughout their childhood, to volunteer coach or assist with the Pearl City Park District baseball and softball summer programs. We have been members of St John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City since moving into the community. I participate as lector and assisting pastor for worship when called to do so and help with youth programs and the grace meals at the church.

I have been in banking my entire career and have in-depth experience across all core business functions and operations. Through my work experience I have developed strong leadership, communication, negotiation, creative, and analytical skills. As the Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer at German American State Bank I am responsible for the day-to-day operations of the bank. My responsibilities include developing, implementing, and managing an annual budget and business plan along with strategic planning and innovative thinking. I believe I can bring a fresh perspective to the Board and my experience and education would further strengthen our Board and the district we serve.

I want to be elected to serve as a Board member. I will actively listen and seek input from parents, students, facility, and community residents to gain perspective on issues facing our district. I want to advocate and support those who feel their voice is not being heard and seek accountability for actions. Along with the other Board members, I will strive to keep the long-term interests of the district, and the interests of the current and future students foremost in any and all decisions while not being passive or accepting of the status quo.

I think one of the biggest challenges in our school today is creating a culture where all students recognize their self-worth and are encouraged to be fully engaged academically, creatively, and socially on a daily basis in the school, within the community, and as they interact with younger students. We need to seek educators with a passion to teach and inspire our children to receive the best education and best educational experience possible during those critical up bringing years. I believe becoming a leader in top level education should be a priority and that we need to develop a greater technology base, enhance and be more creative in our curriculum and seek educators who desire to interact with students beyond the classroom. I thank you for your consideration and would appreciate your vote.

Respectfully, Tracy Downs

Jace Kempel

My name is Jace Kempel, and I am running for a four-year term as a member on the Pearl City School District School Board. I am a proud 2006 graduate of the Pearl City School District #200 and have chosen to raise a family here with my wife Danielle. We have two children, Collins (5) and Crew (3), who will be attending the Pearl City School District. I'm currently in my 10 th year as an Independent Sales Representative for Pioneer Hi-Bred, selling and servicing Pioneer Brand corn, soybeans, and alfalfa in western Stephenson County. I've been an active Pearl City Lions Club member, as well as a committee member for the Boulevard Bash for 10 years. In the past, I have volunteered as a baseball coach for the summer program and assisted with boys' basketball at various levels in Pearl City.

Much like every small town, our community revolves around our school district. I benefitted greatly from having a great school system to grow up in, and I'd like to be a part of ensuring that all Pearl City students, as well as my own children, have even more opportunities in education and extracurricular activities that I had.

If you look across the state, you will see a lot of small communities like ours that have consolidated school districts in the last decade. There are many reasons for consolidation, such as quality of education, services offered, or to alleviate financial stress. While consolidation has its benefits, there are negative aspects to consolidating that could have a direct effect on our community. For example, in smaller school districts in rural areas, communities are often built around schools. People know one another within the boundaries of the school district, and the school district is what holds the community together. We have a district filled with teachers and staff that excel in their respective classes and a community that stands behind the district. With proper management of funding and resources, in addition to increasing opportunities for our students, I can see the Pearl City School District thriving for many years to come.

I would appreciate your support in the upcoming election and GO WOLVES! Jace Kempel

Tim Pauley

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the candidates running for the Pearl City School Board. Before I get into the reasons of me running for this position, let me provide you a bit of background. I started and completed my primary education at Pearl City Schools, graduating high school in 2002. In 2006 I completed my college career at Knox College in Galesburg, IL with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Business Finance. I began my career in banking directly out of college and have been a community banker for the last 12 years. I currently serve as President of the Exchange State Bank in Lanark, IL. My wife Jody and I have lived in Pearl City since moving back in the area in 2014. Jody is a 3 rd grade teacher for Pearl City Schools. We have three beautiful, active children: Mason (11), Beckett (9), and Fallyn (7).

This will be my second time running for a seat on the Board of Education (BOE) at Pearl City. I found my first term to be a very rewarding experience. I've had the opportunity to work closely with fellow Board Members and School Administrators on making difficult decisions for the betterment of the students, teachers, staff and school. I want to continue capitalizing on this opportunity as I believe I take in the best interest of the community in doing so. I've learned some valuable lessons within my profession. The worth of having an open mind and importance of being a good listener are two that come to mind that directly impact a Board Member's ability to serve and I believe I exemplify those characteristics.

There always will be many challenges small-town school districts will face. I believe Pearl City Schools has one major challenge in front of them today. The School faces short-term financial concerns as there are multiple capital improvements that need attention. These necessary obligations will create stress to the balanced budget and put a large dent into the school's reserves. The community thrives on the strength of the school and its educators and their curriculum. It is imperative that the school continue meeting the expectations of our hard-working educators to provide the best instruction that our students so deserve. By doing so, I believe it will attract young families to come to Pearl City as it is the goal to young parents to have the best education offered to their kids.

Thanks for taking the time to get to know a little about me and why I want to be a part of the BOE for a second term. Go Wolves! - Tim

Richard Sargent

I'm a self-employed business owner. I have lived and worked in the community for 23 year. My wife and I have been married for 29 years, parents of 3 children. My 3 children graduated from Pearl City High School, The 2 boys where involved in boy scouts. Which they both earned the highest scout award of Eagle Scout. My youngest in the last year has gotten her America Farmer Award. My 2 boys live and work in the Pearl City area. I have a grand son and a grand daughter on the way. I would like to see Pearl City School add a couple of Tech class Ed and a Home Economics or a Life Skills class. The Tech Ed classes can be add with little or no cost to the community.

Nicole Sheffey

My name is Nicole Sheffey, I am a candidate for the Pearl City School Board. I graduated from Stockton High School. I have held a variety of jobs including but not limited to: waitress, construction work, pharmacy technician, night management of grain drying setup, customer service rep, and home daycare provider. I married Scott Sheffey, a Pearl City native, in the summer of 2001. We moved to his family farm in the Pearl City community. We have 3 boys, Jase, a Sophomore in College at Highland Community College, Levi, a Senior and Wade, a 7th grader. I am currently working for our farm as a bookkeeper / inventory/ record keeper. I also keep our farms cost of production records for both our grain and hog operation. I have gained a lot of experience running my own business and working with our farms cost of production numbers. A lot of time is spent going over bills and making sure numbers are correct.

We are the 5th generation to live on the family farm and we aspire for our boys to be the 6th generation. I love our rural Pearl City community and really feel this is where I belong. I have been serving on the Pearl City School Board for almost 8 years. I am very proud of our school and our community. I would be honored, to serve our School and our community another 4 years. I would like to see the Pearl City schools remain strong and continue to move in a positive direction so our district is thriving for future generations. I want to continue to help our school stride to maintain a balanced budget. As a board member, I would advocate working together through open and honest discussions to provide high quality education to our students.

One of the biggest challenges facing our school district today is growing financial issues. State funding is always a big question mark. Lack of funds, puts schools in a difficult situation. We also see a very limited supply of new teachers entering into the teaching career path. This is something that could affect the type of teacher we are able to get. We need to continue to attract enthusiastic, passionate, and hard-working teachers. Keeping Pearl City the place teachers want to come! I want to see our school thrive, but in order to do this we need to be financially responsible with taxpayer's money and willing to adapt new ways to attract and keep our dedicated teaching staff.

I feel, I have a lot to offer our school. I believe in making choices that benefit the students' education while also keeping our budget in check. We have kept a balanced budget these past few years but we know this is still a struggle we need to stay on top of. Some choices /decisions may not be as easy as others, but I will promise to make the responsible choice. One of my strongest points as a candidate would be that I am not a "go with the flow type of person". I think for myself. If something doesn't make sense I will ask questions until I get all of the information or figure out the problems, so, I can make the best possible decision. Schools unite a community; we are a strong community! I believe in keeping it that way!

5 Essentials Survey

Beginning January 24, 2023 and running through March 31, 2023, all parents, certified teachers and students in grades 4-12 are asked to participate in a short survey on school climate and learning conditions. The State Board of Education requires all Illinois schools to participate in the Illinois 5 Essentials Survey to guide local and state improvement initiatives.

The parent survey is to be completed by parents, guardians, or other caregivers with a child in grades prekindergarten through 12. The parent survey is available in English and Spanish and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. If you have more than 1 child and they attend the same school, you may elect to participate multiple times. Parents with children enrolled in multiple schools may participate in the survey for each school. Only one parent per household may participate in the survey.

Pearl City Schools is asking all parents to take the time to complete the survey. Information collected from the survey provides insight that guides future improvement planning.

Please use the link below to complete the survey. If you have questions or need support to complete the survey, please contact the District office.

http://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/

Spring State Testing

Spring is in the air and that means the students and teachers are preparing for the State exams. This is the fourth year Illinois has participated in the IAR assessment. The test will be administered to students in grades 3-8. The 2023 exam has a simpler format to improve the testing process while still providing reliable information about student achievement. This year's results will allow parents, teachers, and students to see how the student is growing in his or her knowledge and understanding of the state's learning standards, which are focused on college and career readiness.

Since the Spring of 2020, ISBE requires all public-school students in grade 9 to take the PSAT 8/9 and all public-school students in grade 10 to take the PSAT 10. ISBE will continue to require all public-school students in grade 11 to take the SAT. These tests will again show the school and student areas of strength and areas to improve upon. For the Juniors, the SAT will play an important part in their college acceptance and also scholarship opportunities.

No assessment can ever fully capture the skills and abilities of a great teacher or the extraordinary benefits and positive impact of a great school. These assessments are simply one reflection of your child's academic growth. Assessments help provide a sense of where and how we are succeeding and where and how we must improve, along with other indicators, such as classroom work samples and teacher observations. The IAR and SAT assessments are designed to give schools and teachers more information to support improvement efforts and personalize teaching to better guide our students' learning. These spring assessments correspond with what the students are learning in the classroom and with the performance expectations of the Illinois Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Ways you can help your child with IAR and SAT testing:

- Offer practice exercises and questions that are similar to those that may be on the test. The school has provided several resources such as:
- : https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/ & https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/practice- preparation
- When practicing with your child focus on their weakest areas in order to strengthen this
 area and to build their confidence when taking the actual test. Please contact your
 child's teacher for more information.
- Keep practice sessions short and if your child becomes frustrated stop the session.
- Be sure your child gets a good night sleep
- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Share the importance of the exam with your child. This test will help gauge the learning level of your child. Encourage them "To Do Your Best on the Test!"
- Help your child stay calm the day of the test

February Student of the Month



7th : Nola Milam 8th : Mackenzie Lotz Freshmen : Kip Martens Sophomores : Alonna Posey

Juniors: Lexton Endress Seniors: Blane Foulker

> Top Dog Randi Posey



PCEF Offers \$22,000 in Upperclassman Scholarships for the 2022-2023 School Year

Pearl City Education Foundation announces the availability of \$22,000 to fund Pearl City Upperclassman Scholar-ships for full-time College or Trade School student for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. This program is for those Pearl City graduates who have already successfully completed their first year of college, or trade school program, and will be going into their 2nd, 3nd, or 4th year as a full-time student.

Updated Upperclassman Scholarship Application forms will be available by mid-March at the State Bank of Pearl City, Pearl City Public Library, or on the Pearl City School's website www.pcwolves.net

The deadline for mailing completed applications with their required attachments is June 30, 2022. Mail to: Pearl City Education Foundation, Upperclassman Scholarships, P.O. Box 278, Pearl City, IL 61062.

Since its 2010 inception, the Pearl City Upperclassman program has awarded over 125 scholarships totaling over \$70,000. The program is designed to be perpetual.

Pearl City Education Foundation (PCEF) welcomes donations for our scholarship programs, as well as for our program for classroom/teacher's grants. Donations are tax deductible as PCEF has 501(c) (3) tax status.

PSAT/SAT

9th-11th grade students will be taking the PSAT/SAT test on April 12th. This test is mandated by the State of Illinois. There are numerous websites that can help prepare the students. Please go to collegeboard.org for these sites. Students will also practice in their English and Math classes. On the testing day, students should eat right, get enough sleep, have materials they need and be ready to try their best. Please do not schedule appointments on April 12th. More details will be forthcoming. Seniors will not have school on this day.

Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) Testing

The IAR testing will be the week of MARCH 13th for 3rd-8th grade students. Please refer to future communications about specific testing times for each grade level. On testing days, students should eat right, get enough sleep, have materials they need and be ready to try their best. Please do not schedule appointments during testing times.

The following link offers practice exercises and questions that are similar to those that may be on the test. https://il.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/

Senior Awards

Senior Awards day will be on May 9th, 2023 at 7:00pm. The awards will be held in the Pearl City High School Gym. More details to come.



High School Graduation Date

High School graduation will take place on May 21st at 1:00. More details to come.



Preschool Screening for the 2023-2024 school year will be taking place on Friday, March 17th for any child between the ages of 3-5 and living in the Pearl City School District. Any child who will be three years old before September 1st, 2023, is eligible to screen on March 17th and attend the preschool program next year. Children must be screened in order to be considered for the preschool program.

Preschool screening is a play-based assessment that generally last 45 minutes, and will be held in the preschool classroom (Room 111) at Pearl City Elementary School. During the screening, your child will play in the classroom with a small group of their peers and a variety of professionals (general/special education teacher, Speech and Language Pathologist, PASS Coordinator etc.).

The purpose of this screening is to identify children who would benefit and/or be eligible to attend the preschool program next year, or need additional evaluation and/or services. Space in this program is limited. Children who are not initially enrolled in the program will be placed on a waiting list.

Various screening time slots are available throughout the day on March 17th. Please visit www.https://www.pcwolves.net/ to complete the appointment form and to receive all

information concerning the registration.

Illinois Science Assessment

Students in 5th, 8th grade, as well as Juniors will be taking the Illinois Science Assessment the week of March 6th (details will be sent by your child's principal). On the testing days, students should eat right, get enough sleep, have materials they need and be ready to try their best. Please do not schedule appointments during testing dates.



Pearl City School Kindergarten Registration



for Fall 2023-2024

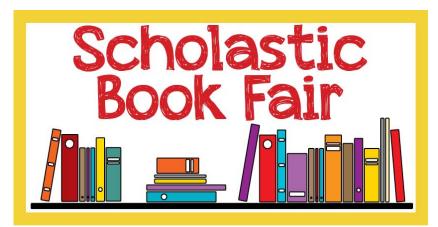
Kindergarten Registration for Fall of 2023-2024 is now open. New Families to Pearl City should use this link to begin the online registration.

https://
skyward.iscorp.com/
scripts/wsisa.dll/
WService=wsedupearlcit
yil/skyenroll.w

Families who already have a Skyward account can simply add their child in Skyward. If you are unsure if you have a Skyward account, please contact the Main Office. Parents are asked to bring their child's official birth certificate from the Court House and a copy will be made in the Main Office.

Scholastic Book Fair

The PTO Scholastic Book Fair is right around the corner, starting April 6th! This fair will be hosted in the Cafeteria to allow more room for everyone. All proceeds will go towards new books for the Elementary Library!



The Mobile Dentist

The Mobile Dentist will be coming to Pearl City School on March 15, 2023 to see students PreK-12th grade. If you would like your student to be seen by the Mobile Dentist, please complete the paper registration form and return it to school OR complete the online form through the link: https://

www.myschooldentist.com/PEPCIL sch by

March 1, 2023. Registration forms will be sent home with all Pre-K-6th grade students. Additional registration forms will be available for pick-up in the Main Office for all JH and HS students.



<u>Important Dates</u> to Remember

Week of March 6th-ISA Testing grades 5, 8, 11

<u>March 7th-</u>Spring Sports Pictures (JHT, HST, BB, SB, Bass Fishing)

<u>March 9th-</u> Elementary Spring Concert 6:00pm & Open House 6:00pm-8:00pm

<u>March 10th-</u>3rd Quarter Ends & Early Dismissal 11:15 am

Week of March 13th-IAR Testing grades 3-8

March 15th-Mobile Dentist

<u>March 16th</u>-Report Cards Available in your Skyward Portfolio by 10:00 am

March 24th-1:00pm dismissal

March 27th-31st-Spring Break



School Name: Pearl City School
Picture Day Date:

Wednesday, March 3
Pre K through 8th grades

Picture Day ID: EVTX3B8FH

Next PC Booster Club Meeting:

Sunday, March 19th at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria

(Subject to change- A school reach will be sent out closer to the date to confirm date, time, and location)

PC Booster Club Spring Apparel Stores:

Now is your time to stock up on Pearl City Wolves gear! The PC Booster Club has teamed up with the Spring Sports Programs to bring some fun new designs your



PC Booster Club Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser:



We are currently looking for someone interested in leading the Golf Outing and becoming the Point of Contact. Ashley Gronewold is willing to do a transition year. Please let Ashley know if you're interested in becoming the new POC. She can be reached at 815.541.0394.

We are in the phases of planning now and are seeking help! If you're interested in sponsoring monetarily, donating items, or volunteering your time, please email us at PCBoosterClub@gmail.com or text Ashley Gronewold at 815.541.0394.

Find Us Digitally:

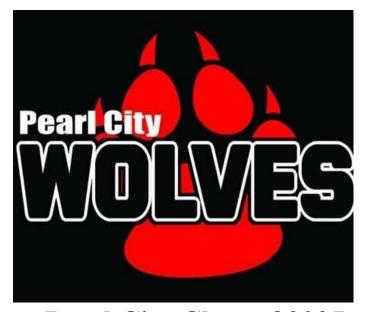
Please find or contact us on the below digital platforms for the most up to date information.

- PC School Website: Athletics- PC Booster Club
- Email: PCBoosterClub@gmail.com
- Facebook: @pearlcityboosterclub
- Venmo: @PCBoosterClub200

PC Booster Club Contact Information:

Please contact us if you have any questions or ideas.

- Ashley Gronewold, President: 815.541.0394
- Angie Niehaus, Vice President: 815.266.7260
- DJ Scott, Treasurer: djscott@pcwolves.net
- Mel Bremmer, Secretary: 815.821.4715



Pearl City Class of 2025

Fundraising Bowling Party! Friday, March 3, 2023 7pm Check-in at 6:30 \$50/couple

Call Kristi Fransen or Matt Milam @ 815 443 2715

2023 March



Pearl City Schools

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
26	27	Feb 28	HSBB - IHSA Sectionals		2 3	IHSA Solo & Ensemble			
				HSGB - IHSA State		4:30 PM Baseball @ Orangeville			
5	Academic Bowl - IHSA Regionals HSBB - IHSA Super Sec	7 Spring Sports Pictures(JHT, HST, BB, SB, Bass Fishing))	8	B State Tourney Open House 6:00 PM Spring Elementary Concert	11:15 AM Early Dismissal-End of 3rd Quarter	Academic Bowl -IHSA Sectionals			
12	4:30 PM Baseball @ Freeport 4:30 PM Softball vs Freeport	4:15 PM LWPC Girls Track @ Byron Indoor 4:30 PM Boys Track @ Byron	Mobile Dentist 4:30 PM Baseball vs Warren/Stockton 4:30 PM Softball vs Warren/Stockton 6:30 PM Board of Education Meeting	16	Academic Bowl- IHSA State Upstate Festival @ Amboy	LWPC Girls Track @ Byron indoor TBA 11:00 AM Baseball @ Amboy 11:00 AM Softball vs Oregon			
19	4:30 PM Baseball vs AFC 4:30 PM Softball vs AFC	21	4:30 PM Baseball @ Polo 4:30 PM Softball @ Polo	JHG Basketball -Conference Tourney 4:00 PM LWPC Girls Track @ Stillman Valley 4:30 PM Baseball @ Forreston 4:30 PM Softball @ Forreston	24	10:00 AM Softball vs Triangular 10:00 AM Baseball Triangular PC			
26	No School-Spring Break	4:30 PM Baseball vs Milledgeville	4:30 PM Softball @ Guilford	30 4:00 PM LWPC Girls Track @ Galena 4:30 PM Baseball @ RR/SM 4:30 PM Softball @ RR/SM	Baseball FS/Jacksonville Softball TBA Softball Tourney in Jacksonville	Apr 1			
2		*Calendar is subject to change *							

2023 March

Menu



Pearl City Schools

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
26	6 27	Feb 28		2		4			
			Pop Tarts, Fruit, Juice and Milk Lasagna Rollups, Broccoli, Mandarin	Scrambled Eggs and Toast, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and Milk	Long John, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and Milk				
			Oranges and Milk	Orange Chicken, Green Beans,	Cheese Fries, Carrots, Apple Slices,				
				Pineapple and Milk	Dessert and Milk				
5	5	7	8	9	10	11			
	Blueberry Bagel, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and Milk	Dutch Waffle, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and Milk	Mini Cinnamon rolls, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and Milk	Pretzel w/Cheese, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and Milk	Cereal Bar, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and Milk				
			Goulash, Green Beans, Strawberry Cup		Macaroni and Cheese, Carrots,				
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Milk	and Milk	Slices and Milk	Peaches, Dessert and Milk				
1	2 13	14	15	16	17	18			
	French Toast Sticks, Cereal, Fruit, Juice	Apple Bosco Stick, Cereal, Fruit, Juice	Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and		Apple Fritter, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and				
	and Milk	and Milk	Milk	D. Hard Davids Davids all: Davids and Mills	Milk				
	Chicken and Biscuits, Peas, Mandarin Oranges and Milk	Taco in a Bag, Corn, Appleasuces and Milk	Porked Tenderloin, Green Beans, Peaches and Milk	Pulled Pork, Broccoli, Pears and Milk	Cheerse Filled Breadstick, Carrots, Apple Slices, Dessert and Milk				
	Oranges and Wilk	WIIK	reacties and wink		Apple Silces, Desseit and Wilk				
	0 20	21	22	22	24	25			
	9 20 Mini Bagels, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and		Cherry Frudel, Cereal, Fruit, Juice and		Variety Breakfast, fruit, juice and Milk	25			
	Milk	raneakes, ecreal, rrans, saide and mink	Milk	Milk	variety breaklast, maily juried and mink				
	Hamberger, Baked Beans, Pineapple	Taco Bites, Corn, Mandarin Oranges	Mostaccioli, Green Beans, Peaches and	Pancakes and Sausage, Hashbrowns,	French Bread Pizza, Broccoli, Pears				
	and Milk	and Milk	Milk	Applesauce and Milk	Dessert and Milk				
26						Apr 1			
	No School - Spring Break	No School - Spring Break	No-School - Spring Break	No School - Spring Break	No School - Spring Break				
	2	Notes	!	!					
		Calendar is subject to change							
		Lunch is Offer vs. Serve Each meal is provided with Milk & Whole Grain Bread/Breading							