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Nutrition and Dental Health

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Can an apple a day really keep the doctor away? Does sugar really cause cavities? These questions are frequently asked about teeth, so let's clarify some of the tales, truths and potential misunderstandings about dental health and nutrition. First, if your nutritional intake is poor, often your teeth will be the first to show signs that your body is lacking key nutrients. According to MyPlate, a website from the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, an agency of U.S. Department of Agriculture, a balanced and healthy diet should include:

- Fruits and vegetables: Combined, these should cover half your plate at meals.
- Grains: At least half of the grains you eat should be whole grains, such as oatmeal, whole wheat bread and brown rice.
- · Dairy: Choose low-fat or fat-free dairy foods most often.

• **Protein:** Make lean protein choices, such as lean beef, skinless poultry and fish. Vary your protein choices to also include eggs, beans, peas and legumes. Eat at least eight ounces of seafood a week.

As part of a healthy diet, it's important to note that the foods you eat and the beverages you drink can have a direct influence on the incidence and progression of tooth decay. Not only will "sugar" potentially harm teeth, but almost any type of carbohydrate can be troublesome. Bacteria in our mouth uses carbohydrates for food, so when you cut back on sugar in your diet, you automatically reduce your cavity risk. It is also very important to brush your teeth after eating any kind of food. At a minimum, you should brush your teeth morning and night and be sure to see a dentist every six months.

Sodexo is committed to promoting healthier food choices and encourages students and families to use the USDA MyPlate to build healthy and balanced meals.

liftoffsplayground.com

Fresh Pick Recipe

1 ½ Tbsp olive oil
¼ c onion (small dice)
½ c celery (sliced thin)
2 c carrots (1" slices)
1 c plus 2 Tbsp water (divided)
1 ½ c apples (unpeeled/tart/large dice)

1 Tbsp honey
2 Tbsp orange juice
1 Tbsp cornstarch
salt and pepper to taste
2 Tbsp parsley (sliced)

tender

but tender.

 Prepare ingredients as directed.
 In medium saucepan sauté onions and celery in the olive oil for 2 minutes until

3. Add 1 C water and the carrots to the pan and simmer until carrots are crisp

Drain any remaining water. Add apples, honey and orange juice to the carrots

Bring to a medium boil and then simmer for 2 minutes. Garnish with parsley

and sauté for 5 minutes.5. Combine the cornstarch with the remaining 2 T water and add to the pan.

6. Add salt and pepper to taste.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		5/1/24 Breakfast Bar Pop tart w/ String Cheese Fruit and Juice	5/2/24 Waffle Breakfast Sandwich Cereal w/cheese stick Fruit and Juice	5/3/24 Breakfast Burrito Cereal W/cheese stick Fruit and Juice
5/6/24 English Muffin Breakfast Sandwich Cereal w/cheese stick Fruit and Juice	5/7/24 Breakfast Sandwich Pop tart w/cheese stick Fruit and Juice	5/8/24 Breakfast Pizza Banana Bread w/ cheese stick Fruit and Juice	Fruit and Yogurt Parfait Cereal W/ cheese stick Fruit and Juice	5/10/24 Pancake on a stick Muffin w/ cheese stick Fruit and juice
4/13/24 Donuts Fruit and Juice option Chefs Choice 2nd option	4/14/24 Bagels with Cream Cheese Fruit and Juice option Chefs Choice 2nd Option	4/15/24 Breakfast Bar Fruit and Juice Chefs Choice 2nd option	Yogurt Parfait Fruit and Juice Chefs Choice 2nd option	Biscuit Sandwich Fruit and Juice Chefs Choice 2nd option
4/20/24 Chefs Choice	4/21/24 Chefs Choice	4/22/24 Chefs Choice	4/23/24 Chefs Choice	

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and serve

Nutrition Information is available upon request.

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