



Media Contact  
Andre Santelli  
203-291-1627  
andresantelli@westonps.org

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Weston Public Schools Takes New Approach to Café Menus**

*Focusing on local ingredients, from scratch cooking and expanded options, new recipes take center stage for the 2017-18 school year*

(WESTON, CT) July 20, 2017 – Fresh new ingredients, local produce and made from scratch recipes come together in delicious new menus across Weston Public Schools for the 2017-18 school year. Combining bold flavors with nutritious options, these new menus will expand options for students and support lifelong healthy habits.

Weston Public Schools made the decision not to participate in the USDA National School Lunch Program for the coming school year, which allows the district's talented chefs to create exciting new meals for students.

This summer the schools' chefs and dietitians are collaborating to create an exciting new food philosophy for Weston Public Schools to support this transition and will be brought to life in every café across the district. Key features of the new food platform include:

- Fresh, local produce available in every school café
- Introduction of organic, non-GMO ingredients and foods
- Humanely raised beef
- Cage-free shell eggs
- Hormone free milk and dairy products

In addition, students will see new station concepts as well as enhancements to classic favorites.

"Weston Public Schools is proud of our top ranked café program," says Andre Santelli, Director of Culinary for the Weston Public Schools. "We are thrilled to bring an even more progressive approach to our menus with a focus on fresh local ingredients, non-GMO, organic products and more."

Students can expect classic, made from scratch favorites that are sure to get them excited about the café. Fresh fruits and vegetables, whole ingredients and organic offerings will take center stage for Weston's students to help establish and maintain healthy habits from kindergarten to high school.



In addition, Weston Middle School's cafeteria will be on the drawing board for a renovation in Summer 2018. The renovation looks to transform the space into a more retail style café highlighting great food, emphasizing healthy choices and reflecting the dining experiences students have come to know outside of school in the casual restaurant spaces. The renovation will support the new menu by creating more defined spaces, allowing more options for students as well as include a new seating area.

"Weston's excellence reaches from the classroom to the cafe," says William McKersie, Superintendent of the Weston Public Schools. "We are excited to partner with Chartwells to introduce these new ingredients and menus, which are a direct response to student, parent and community feedback and Weston Board of Education priorities. Andre Santelli and his team earn high praise for their expertise and dedication to the health of all our students and staff."

### **About Chartwells K12**

**Chartwells K12** provides for more than 600 school districts, ranging from large public institutions to small charter and private schools, all with expansive needs. Chartwells K12 is a culinary-focused organization with a mission to extend its passion, dedication, knowledge and enthusiasm into serving each student delicious and nutritious meals. The company is built on decades of food and education experience and driven by top culinary, nutrition, wellness and sustainability talent. Chartwells K12 is part of Compass Group, an international leader in foodservice management and support services. For more information, visit <http://www.ChartwellsK12.com/>

### **About Weston Public Schools**

The **Weston Schools** enroll approximately 2,500 students and are located on a beautiful, 117-acre, wooded campus. Hurlbutt Elementary School serves grades Pre-Kindergarten through 2, Weston Intermediate School grades 3 – 5, Weston Middle School grades 6-8, and Weston High School grades 9-12.

The Weston Public Schools rank among the highest in Connecticut and the Northeast in all indices of student performance. Ninety-seven percent of Weston High School graduates matriculate to four-year colleges and universities. In addition to its reputation for academic excellence, Weston takes significant pride in the accomplishments of its students in the fine and performing arts, athletics, and community service. The school district offers a robust after-school program at all levels. Weston is dedicated to the total health and well-being of its students, and forming strong partnerships with families and the community. For more information, visit <http://www.westonps.org/>

##