

November 7, 2014 – Staunton City Schools Celebrates Virginia Farm to School Week

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*Cafeterias will Feature Local Sourced Food and
Lunchtime Events to Highlight Farm to Table Connections.*

Staunton, VA – Staunton City Schools will celebrate Virginia’s 6th Annual Farm to School Week, November 10-14, by showcasing fresh, locally sourced foods through a growing partnership with area nonprofit, Local Food Hub; Project Grows, a community education farm; and Mainstreet Farmstead, a family-owned dairy producer in the Shenandoah Valley. In celebration of this annual event, Staunton City Schools’ Nutrition Services and local contributors will work together to highlight regional offerings from farms in the Shenandoah Valley and throughout Central Virginia.

This year, to help emphasize the food, farming and nutrition connection, we have invited local farmers into our schools for tastings and educational opportunities with our students.

- Mainstreet Farmstead of Stuarts Draft, with owner operator Gary Connor, will join students for lunch on November 12 at McSwain Elementary for a sampling of his farm produced cheese clouds. He will be providing two fan-favorite flavors for children to experience, as well as talking to our students about his experience as a farmer.
- The staff of Local Food Hub in Charlottesville along with Wenger Grape Farm of Stuarts Draft, will join students at Bessie Weller Elementary on Thursday, November 13, for a lunch of locally-raised, country-style pot roast followed by a grape and apple tasting.
- Project Grows of Verona will be joining our Ware Elementary students on November 14 for a tasting of “green chips” and will offer educational information about kale and mustard greens.

Virginia schools currently spend more than \$6 million each year on fresh produce. Farm to School programming provides a way to keep that market opportunity local, while also promoting opportunities for schools, distributors and growers to work together to increase the volume of locally grown products served in school cafeterias. The program facilitates agriculture and nutrition educational opportunities that not only enrich our students’ academic experience, but also lends a hand in the fight against childhood obesity and food insecurity, in addition to improving child wellness.

Staunton City Schools is always proud to be a part of enriching community connections.