



Lunchroom Atmosphere & Student Involvement

Murals

Wall murals can include students in beautifying the lunchroom while incorporating their interests and values into the shared space. These tips can provide a starting point for planning a mural project.

Bonus: Lunchroom murals can help you attain the following items on the Smarter Lunchrooms Scorecard:

- Attractive, healthful food posters are displayed in dining and service areas.
- The lunchroom is branded and decorated in a way that reflects the student body.
- Student artwork is displayed in the service area or dining space.

Note: For this project, ask to collaborate with the art teacher, particularly if the school or district offers Advanced Placement (AP) art. High school artists are very interested in high-level, real-world projects. Younger students can still be involved: for example, K-8 students can host a mural design contest, and high school students can provide input into the design process and lead or assist with implementation.



Murals

- Colorful, bright, age-appropriate
- Can feature many topics: nutrition, school spirit, students' cultures, local foods and produce, town scenes, favorite characters, local sports teams or landscapes, lunchroom branding theme
- Represent student diversity, cultures and interests
- Incorporate architectural features such as windows and doors into the design
- Embrace all possible spaces and walls: add a mural to a smaller dining area, just a section of the main lunchroom, near the main office, hallways, both lower and upper grade schools, etc.
- Involve students in all parts of the process (e.g., hold a design contest, complete the artwork as a class project, fundraise to pay a professional artist)