What are the most popular school lunch offerings?

Gothenburg Public Schools food service manager Joni Jacobsen said tacos and chicken nuggets seem to be the most popular entree for grades K-12.

Least favorite foods are hard to measure, she said, because large numbers of students may be gone during lunchtime on a certain day or may decide to frequent the salad, soup and sandwich bar instead of choosing a main entree.

Students grades 5-12 have access to a salad, soup and sandwich bar while elementary-aged kids only receive the daily entree.

“Whatever we’re having, students should be able to find something they like,” Jacobsen said. “And we keep trying different things.”

Jacobsen said parents can help get their kids to eat healthier by encouraging them to eat different foods such as vegetables and introducing them to new main courses.

She noted that it often takes 10 times to introduce a child to a new food before it’s accepted.

“Start with just a bite.”

Throughout the morning, the school kitchen and cafeteria buzz with activity.

About a third of the student body shows up before school begins for breakfast in the cafeteria.

“I’d love to see more kids eat breakfast,” she said.

Mid morning, junior and senior high school students can choose brunch items from carts wheeled outside classrooms.

Students pay for before-school breakfast and lunch by punching a personal number into a computer.

Brunch items are checked off a roster for each class and put into

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