**Culinary Cats**

The CCSD#1 Culinary Cats is a group of exciting and highly motivated high school students who love to cook while learning about proper food preparation and safety. They enjoy expressing their creativity using a wide range of prep cook skills and techniques. We have a diverse group of students and adapt our program accordingly by allowing them to work at their own pace and ability level.

The Culinary Cats began 5 years ago by providing snacks for the Bearcat Express Coffee Shop. Snacks were made for the coffee shop during the school year and for the first three summers for students making up high school credits.

Students also experience the entire process of a cooking business through planning menus, shopping for the ingredients needed, and preparing, delivering, and serving entire meals from appetizers to desserts for various groups in the community as well as for folks from the school district who are in need of treats for trainings and committee meetings. For the summer credit recovery classes of 2015 and 2016, lunches were prepared and served to staff and students during the month of June. DUring 2016, lunches were also served to staff and students enrolled in the DHS ESY Program.

In an effort to provide quality training for the students, initially, three staff members from the special education department attended the National ServSafe restaurant training in February of 2013. All three received the National Certification that assists them in training students for various areas of food service employment. Students participating in the Student Transition Employment Program (STEP) classes and in the summer cooking course offered during June each year are receiving training that prepares them for employment as prep cooks, line cooks, wait staff, dishwashing and bussing tables, and proper restaurant cleaning and sanitation. Since 2013, other staff members have been ServSafe trained in various levels of the food service industry.

If you see a vehicle driving about Douglas with a sign on each front door that says “CCSD#1 Culinary Cats Delivery Service” it means we have an order on board and are delivering to whomever placed the order for that day. If you are interested in checking us out, feel free to stop in at the SpEd kitchen located on the 2nd floor of the high school. Students and Staff are more than willing to visit with you about the program.

Mickey Anderson/Culinary Cats Coordinator/Advisor