

Meet The Member

MALACHI THOMPSON
FOOD SERVICE ASSOCIATE
EDWARD NEILL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

BURNSVILLE-EAGAN-SAVAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 191

"The most rewarding part of my job is receiving personal compliments on the food that I prepare for the students and [seeing] their smiles."



Tell us about your involvement in MSNA:

My involvement in MSNA has been an asset in giving me feedback in the food industry. This supports my career path positively by helping kids receive nutrition.

What motivates you to work in school nutrition?

My motivation in school nutrition is the students, they make our days. I'm only 20 years old and I remember being in their shoes. It does my heart good to see them having a good experience in school as they grow, and most importantly, be fed.

What do you think people don't know about school nutrition that they should?

I want everyone to know that the work we do in school nutrition is simple, but there's a lot that goes into it in terms of prep, time and fair servings.

Describe how you have been mentored in your school nutrition career:

Being the youngest, I'm constantly learning from others who've been in the business longer than I've been alive. I have been mentored with guidance and new methods of finishing a task. I have yet to mentor someone, but I'm willing to. More minds are better than one.

What's the most popular meal on your lunch menu and your personal favorite:

I believe our most popular meal is pizza, but my personal favorite is between orange chicken and breakfast.

Tell us about interactions with students:

I can sense a student is having a bad day by their body language, with a frown or tears streaming down their face. I cheer them up by talking calmly and being patient, along with understanding their needs. I was a kid like them, so I get where they're coming from in a situation.

What is the most challenging aspect of your job and the most rewarding?

The most challenging aspect of my job is time because it waits for no one. We do so much in what feels like little time, and I love that because each day I've become faster, stronger, and mentored. The most rewarding thing [is] making the kids happy. When the kids are happy, I'm happy, even if I have a bad day, I move that to the side and show positivity to the kids as I receive so much. In business, you never want to carry negativity to the next room. The most rewarding part of my job is receiving personal compliments on the food that I prepared for the students and their smiles.

- Malachi Thompson, Food Service Associate, ISD 191 Burnsville-Eagan-Savage

“Malachi Thompson is one of our few Gen Z employees. He has an excellent connection with the elementary school-age children he serves and knows many of their names”

-Julie Kronabetter, MSNA Nutrition Chair