

# Improving Efficiency, Working Together and Increasing the Appeal of Student Meals with Hondo ISD

As part of the MENU Module pilot program, Hondo ISD is the first CE in the great State of Texas to launch MENU Module. Hondo ISD is led by Barbie Dickinson, CND. Barbie has been with Hondo for 10 years.



Here are some facts about the Hondo ISD food program:

They have four sites: Elementary, Intermediate, Junior High and High School. Each site has different menus and menu cycles, and a total of 2,700 total students. Staff at each campus say, "MENU is improving the efficiency of the daily standardized recipe development, menu planning and production."



*Lourdes Miranda Reyes, Julian Gauna, Ana Morin, Maricela Ochoa, Rebecca Lewis - Mgr*

Each site has two lines serving identical meals. As Barbie says, "This gives the kids the most time to eat their meals. They aren't standing in line."

They have NutriKids POS and inventory modules as well as the nutrient analysis module of NutriKids but have never implemented it, due to the time-consuming nature of entering ingredients.

Hondo ISD has a strong foundation of beliefs that permeate into the kitchen. Barbie keeps them at the top of her mind for herself and her teams by posting them in the kitchen. This foundation provided Barbie the easy decision to involve her Site Managers in MENU Module early in the launch.

MENU Module makes it easy to get site teams involved early in the process. Barbie has leveraged that opportunity by having her Site



*Cody Shockley – Mgr, Christina Cortez, Judy Gonzales, Lilia Cuellar, Maggie Riff*



Managers search for Hondo’s ingredients in the TDA shared database in MENU Module. This saved Barbie hours of work.

According to Barbie, having her Site Managers involved during the beginning phases of the process produced some unexpected results. Her Site Managers developed a greater sense of team work by working together to learn something new. They relied on each other for MENU Module information when Barbie wasn’t around, and that team work has expanded to areas outside of MENU Module. Communication especially has increased.



*Nekole Rosas, Norma Gutierrez, Alberta Garcia, Jessica Luna - Mgr*



*Martha Espinoza, Pat Roma – Mgr, Josephine Garcia*

Another surprising benefit for Hondo ISD that has come from launching MENU Module is the impact on the appeal of meals for students.

A feature of MENU Module is the School Café app. When creating menu items in MENU Module, a picture of that item can be uploaded. This allows parents and students to “see” what’s for lunch today. In

addition to the TDA food photo collection, Barbie’s teams took pictures of the actual menu items they prepared to feature on the app!

The side benefit is that a CND or Menu Planner can visually see the layout of their serving lines ahead of time. As Barbie put it, “I won’t be wondering why everything I’m serving is red!”

Hondo students are appreciative of Barbie's team efforts to produce breakfast and lunch daily. Check out this big thank you card from the kids.

Dear Lunch Staff,

I just want you to know, that you are appreciated for what you do for our school. You are amazing people, and im glad to have you at our school. Words cant express how thankful i am to have people like you. Again, thank you for all the hard work you do.

Sincerely,

Andrea Arias 5th