

Dinners ‘Great Resource’ for Camden Families

For Arlethia Brown, launching Camden’s dinner program was one of the best moves she made as the district’s senior manager of school nutrition.

“I think the dinner program is one of the best resources for our families,” Brown says. “It gives parents the ease of knowing their children are getting a meal in the afterschool program, as well as homework help.”

The supper program also gives the district an opportunity to engage parents in programs that can help improve parenting skills and financial management, Brown adds. The district hosts evening classes for parents while the children are eating.

“It’s not only a benefit for students, but for the parents,” Brown says. “It allows us to spend more time with students and bring parents in to learn life skills,

how to provide homework help at home and attend nutrition classes.”

The district serves meals at 11 of its 34 schools. Providing hot, healthy meals is key to the program’s success.

“The fact that we’re able to cook full meals has been a benefit for students here in Camden,” Brown says. “Our students are receiving meals like baked chicken and lasagna. It’s healthier for students.”

The program has been so successful that the district is considering serving meals on Saturdays — another great strategy to reduce childhood hunger.

“The students love the dinner meals,” Brown adds. “Students who participate in afterschool programs really need that meal.”

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Senior Manager, School Nutrition,
Camden School District

