



Irvington School District Celebrates NY Harvest for NY Kids Week

The Irvington School District celebrated its second annual "**NY Harvest for NY Kids**" week by launching its new "Farm to School" program. Many local products were highlighted during the week, including NY state corn, butternut squash, green beans, broccoli, leeks, potatoes, zucchini, and cabbage. 5 varieties of NY-state apples and Bartlett pears came from Yonder Farms, just 60 miles away. The cafeteria's menu featured seasonal dishes every day, and a fresh soup made from scratch (corn chowder, leek and potato, butternut squash, cabbage and broccoli cheese).

In the elementary school, Irvington's food service provider, Aramark, gave each child a free NY-state apple, and at the joint middle school-high school cafeteria, where only 100 apples are usually sold a week, nearly 1,000 apples were bought by hungry students.

The 7th grade participated in a farm day at The Stone Barns Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Pocantico and learned about the value of local foods and why it is better to buy local produce whenever possible. As one 7th grader said, "I never thought about how many miles our food usually travels from a farm to the supermarket before; this Macoun apple tastes a whole lot better than the ones we had in our cafeteria last week."

The Irvington School District is trying to make NY Harvest Week a year-round event by purchasing local produce throughout the school year with the cooperation of its food service provider, Aramark.