

Greenwood Elementary (Greenwood, MO)

This project started with our grant last year. It was a work in progress and we could not complete it in one year with our district having only two painters and cosmetic painting happens only after other scheduled projects happen. This building is on the historic list, so it is very old. The cafeteria is located in the basement and was dull, drab and had alot of clutter. It was used by a couple of other groups and they stored their items in there. It just wasn't very inviting for a dining area.

We decided it needed painting, the walls were a dull gray, a very old mascot painting was on the wall, old posters, ceiling fans that didn't work.....I could go on and on. We formed a team with the principal, cafeteria manager, several teachers, a few students and the nutrition coordinator and made plans of what we wanted to do and it came up to a complete makeover.

We chose paint colors, figured out striping, removed items that didn't need to be there, installed new countertops, took down old bulletin boards and ceiling fans, purchased wall art, curtains, clocks and various decorations. It was a work in progress, but it is now totally complete!! It looks like a new area. We actually have seen our lunch participation go up.

The area is so much more inviting and the students enjoy the atmosphere. Our reports are proof of the students love it. They helped choose items, paint colors and gave their input. Our nutrition council also was involved in choosing the "healthy fruit and veggie" wall art. They loved the wall art that were characters made out of fruit and veggies. Principal, maintenance staff, teachers, cafeteria manager, parents, Kids Country Staff and PTA. We also had Fox 4 news come out and do a segment on our remodel and our Grab and Go program and how this school increased breakfast by over 100%! We all had to learn to be patient. When you have to rely on others to do some of the work and wait for work orders to be completed, it is hard.

Our district only has 2 painters so it took awhile to get the painting completed (they only paint at night) and we had to wait to do all our other steps until that was done. I am including before and after pictures, I don't know what order they will come up, but you can see a definite difference. This project along with implementing the Grab and Go breakfast program has gotten the teachers more excited and interested about Fuel Up to Play 60 funding and getting the students involved. This school is a Touchdown School thanks to all the support we have received.