



Sumac Elementary

Las Virgenes Unified School District

Voyagers' Cafe

Smarter Lunchrooms Focus

1. Promote Vegetables + Salads
2. Increase Reimbursable Meals
3. Create School Synergies



Quick Tip

Get your team to learn the SLM strategies and they will run the extra mile. Some teachers are just waiting to be invited!

—Waleska Cannon, R.D.N.
Director, Child Nutrition, LVUSD

Goals:

- Increase participation in school meal programs
- Decrease food waste
- Increase consumption of healthy foods

Actions:

- Started a school breakfast program to bring students into the cafeteria
- Started a Twitter account: [@LVUSDNutrition](https://twitter.com/LVUSDNutrition)
- Decorated the cafeteria
- Conducted training for frontline staff
- Encouraged sampling of fruits and vegetables with taste tests
- Invited principal, parents and staff members to join nutrition committee

Results:

- Smarter Lunchrooms Movement (SLM) Scorecard increased from 33 to 51 out of 100 points
- Reimbursable meals increased by 15 percent
- Offerings changed to include at least two types of fruits and vegetables each day
- A new nutrition committee was formed with staff and parent participation

Next Steps:

- Apply for HealthierUS School Challenge and Alliance for a Healthier Generation in 2017–2018
- Expand SLM strategies to other elementary schools, provide continuous staff trainings and review SLM Scorecard twice a year



Voyagers' Cafe at Sumac Elementary

School Site Profile

School Name: Sumac Elementary
Grade Levels Served: K–5
Enrollment: 262
Percent Free and Reduced: 66
Foodservice Director: Waleska Cannon, R.D.N.

School District Profile

District Name: Las Virgenes Unified
Grade Levels: Pre-K to 12
Number of Schools: 16
Enrollment: 11,300



Where Students + Parents Are Welcome

A CHANCE TO CHANGE. Sometimes, all it takes for change is an invitation. For years Waleska Cannon, Director of Child Nutrition at Las Virgenes Unified School District, wanted to begin a school breakfast program. With the help of a California Department of Education Team Nutrition SLM of California grant, she had her opportunity during the 2016–2017 school year.

GIVE IT A TRY! With the great teamwork of Technical Advising Professional Morgan Carey, Principal Silvestre and the nutrition services staff, parents and students enjoyed a taste-testing event in the cafeteria that included a variety of unfamiliar fruits and vegetables such as jicama, star fruit and dragon fruit.

Cannon states, “Both parents and students loved it! Parents were encouraging their kids to try new foods, and parents learned about the healthy choices being offered in the cafeteria.”

A NEW LOOK. During the process, Sumac’s cafeteria received a makeover to become Voyagers’ Cafe, themed after the school mascot. Following SLM strategies, decorative food displays and fresh paint made the cafeteria an inviting place where students want to socialize and eat.

GREAT RESULTS! School breakfast at Sumac Elementary has increased reimbursable meals served by 15 percent. Cannon plans to implement breakfast programs in additional schools.

SLM Technical Advising Professional

Name: Morgan Carey
Agency: Dairy Council of California

Learn more about SLM trainings and resources at <http://healthyeating.org/Schools/School-Foodservice/Smarter-Lunchrooms-Movement-of-California.aspx>.