



Maria Luna Food Service Facility

Creating Healthier School Lunches
Through Professional Development



CUSTOMER

Maria Luna Food
Service Facility

INDUSTRY

Food Services

LOCATION

Dallas, Texas

SIZE

Prepares 220,000
meals a day for more
than 200 schools

CUSTOMER

The Maria Luna Food Service Facility in Dallas, Texas prepares and ships 220,000 school meals a day to schools in the Dallas Independent School District. Opened in 2008, the facility contains administrative offices for the Food and Child Nutrition Services Department, a central food services warehouse, a freezer/refrigerator area with a 5,400 pallet rack system, a bakery and production kitchen, a packaging area, an auditorium and a training kitchen.

In addition to the meals prepared at the facility, Maria Luna oversees the preparation of meals cooked in individual school kitchens. As the 12th largest district in the United States, Dallas Independent School District includes more than 200 schools, making the efforts of the Maria Luna Food Service Facility no small feat.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To aide in the professional development of facility employees, the Maria Luna Food Service Facility turned to MediaCAST. Through the use of Kiosk Central, Maria Luna is able to coordinate operations throughout the facility. They have a viewer in the warehouse to display important information to warehouse workers as well as a separate viewer in the kitchens to deliver information important to those employees.

To aide satellite kitchens at the schools prepare meals consistent with the quality of the facility, Maria Luna will begin live broadcasting their chefs preparing meals. The school kitchens can then watch the broadcasts just like a cooking show on TV. These recordings can be saved for future, on-demand viewing. Using snag-a-segment, Maria Luna can even create short clips of important recipes for quick reference.

To ensure the schools actually watch the videos created by Maria Luna, MediaCAST creates reports showing who watched a specific video. This way, if a meal is less than satisfactory at a certain school, administrators at Maria Luna can check to see if the school employees watched the video.

LOOKING FORWARD

While the MediaCAST system at the Maria Luna Food Service Facility is still new, they already have grand plans for future developments. As part of the Healthier US Schools Challenge (HUSSC) implemented by first lady, Michelle Obama, Maria Luna

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plans to install viewers in every cafeteria to display lunch menus as well as food facts and quizzes. Menu items will be color coded so students can easily identify the healthier options.

A voluntary initiative, the HUSSC aims to create healthier school environments through the promotion of nutrition and physical activity.

“When many kids spend half of their waking hours and get up to half their daily calories at school, you know that with the food you serve and, more importantly, the lessons you teach that you’re not just shaping their habits and preferences today, you’re affecting the choices they’re going to make for the rest of their lives,” said Michelle Obama.

145 elementary schools in the Dallas Independent School District have received HUSSC awards in recognition of their efforts to support a healthy lifestyle. With the help of MediaCAST, the Maria Luna Food Service Facility hopes to see every school in the district receive an award.