



IN THE LUNCHROOM on Monday, Max Diederich (above) ate a corn dog before he headed out to recess. Justice Harris (below) filled his tray at the salad bar at Oberlin Elementary School. The students get to pick their fruits and vegetables.

Milk, meat, veggies Lunch is served

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

Children moved through the line, first grabbing a milk — chocolate or regular — a tray with a corn dog, then added celery, carrots or their choice of something from the salad bar.

Five days a week, the kids at Oberlin Elementary School get to choose what fruits and vegetables they want to go with their main dish for lunch. The first shift starts at 11:25 a.m., with the younger kids, first through third graders, get to eat. The shift starts at 11:55 a.m. with the upper grades, fourth to sixth.

Principal Duane Dorshorst said although the students have favorites, it is just like feeding kids at home. Some of them like what's on the menu and others don't. Some of the students' favorites are corn dogs, which was served on Monday, pizza and hamburgers and fries. They also like soup, he said, which amazes him.

The students don't seem to like casseroles very well. Last week, said Mr. Dorshorst, they had an "amazing" tater tot casserole, but the kids just kept asking what was in it.

At lunch on Monday, though, things were different. The kids munched away on corn dogs and celery dipped in peanut butter.

Besides the entree and milk, the school provides a salad bar with vegetables and fruits. The kids really like the salad bar, said Mr. Dorshorst, and there are always plenty of carrots and celery and, of course, ranch dressing to dip in.

At the end of the line, he said, two adults check the trays. Each student

has to start with at least four items on the tray from at least two food groups. The counting changes depending on what's served, he said, because pizza counts for two groups, bread and either dairy or a meat.

The school also serves breakfast, said Mr. Dorshorst. At that meal the students have to take a carton of milk, but they don't at lunch.

After lunch, the kids get to go to the playground for recess.

Head Cook Linda Weber makes the menu choices each month, said Mr. Dorshorst. At the grade school, Kayla Bose and Maureen Anderson are in charge of getting the food on the salad bar and doing some cooking, although the main entree is made at the high school kitchen and brought to the grade school.



AT THE END OF THE TABLE, Shylo Shields (above) ate her macaroni and cheese, while Sabryn O'Gara and Alexandra Waterman (right) visited while they ate.

