

More than just a ‘lunch lady’

Amalia Sanmillan, *Staff Reporter*

Most students won't think about where the cookie they just ate came from and all the work put in to make it. The women who are a part of the lunch crew are people that you see every day but probably don't know much about.

"I like the hours. I wanted a job that wouldn't require me to work holidays, weekends and all that," said Linda Simon, assistant kitchen manager, who has been working at HR for two years. Some of the kitchen staff get to school very early in order to prepare food and set up. Their hours are different for different positions. Simon gets to school at 6:30 and leaves at 2:00 on silver and black days and 2:30 on blue days.

"It's just a good job for somebody that likes to be busy, productive, and enjoy all these wonderful students and doesn't want to work full-time," said Laura Shanahan, assistant kitchen manager.

With so many people in the school, there is always something they are doing. "I worked at a middle school before I came here, and we had about 369 students. We had seven staff members to feed them all. Here, we have a student body of about 1700

students, and we have the same amount of staff," said Simon.

Simon starts the day at 6:30 by getting busy right away. "My first thing is to come in and help the manager get breakfast going," said Simon. "At some point in the morning I come out and cover the cafeteria, so Laura can roll her burritos that everyone likes."

The burritos seem to be a big hit when it comes to what students like most. "Our lunch ladies are ballers. They're super nice, and I love the burritos they make. It's my favorite thing to eat in the morning," said David Tkaczyk, sophomore.

There are also many unique things that occur in the lunchroom. "The weirdest thing that has happened was a kid the other day wanted me to give him the napkin holder," said Simon.

In spite of the early morning hours and the non-stop work day, both women enjoy their job. "I enjoy working with the students. I think it's a good group of ladies and I enjoy the kids," said Simon. With a smiling face, Shanahan said, "A lot of the kids will say we're happy working here, and we really are."

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—Laura Shanahan



Laura Shanahan working at the register during lunch. *Photo by Amalia Sanmillan*

6:30 AM Simon prepares breakfast