

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## The Role of Nutrition and Stress

Nutrition and stress often go hand-in-hand, with some people tending to overeat when stressed and others limiting their food intake due to an upset stomach or indigestion. Certain foods increase the physical stress on your body by making digestion more difficult, or by denying the brain essential nutrients. With a sensible diet, it's possible to reduce the effects of stress, avoid some common problems and protect your health. Nutrients such as Vitamins B and C, calcium, magnesium and zinc can be depleted by stress. To help your body better manage stress and avoid nutrient depletion, you should always aim to eat breakfast, plan meals in advance, pack healthy snacks, minimize caffeine from tea, coffee and sodas and fill up on hydrating water. For added calcium, consume yogurts, smoothies and even calcium-fortified orange juice. B vitamins can be obtained by eating wholesome grains and vitamin C, and magnesium can be found in many fruits and vegetables. Giving your body nutrition it needs is a positive step you can take every day toward combating stress. With the correct nutrition, you are better prepared to face the challenges of the day.



adexo is committed to promoting healthier food choices and encourages students and families to use the USDA MyPlate to build healthy and balanced meals.

### liftoffsplayground.com

# **Refresh Your Mind Every Monday**

Not all stress is the same. Some of the stress that we face in life can be more detrimental to our well-being, and some types of stress can actually be healthy for us. Good stress, or eustress, can be beneficial and is actually necessary for our overall wellbeing. This is the type of "positive" stress that keeps us excited about life. The excitement of a roller-coaster ride, a scary movie or a fun challenge are all examples of eustress. On the other hand, bad stress, or distress, can be detrimental to our health if it becomes chronic and sustained over time. Persistent stress has been shown to cause cardiovascular risks, digestive disorders and decreased immune response as well as sleep loss and mood disorders.

Realizing the magnitude of stress in our country, a team of researchers who created The Mondays Campaign developed a new initiative called DeStress Monday. This program helps people put a positive start on each week while reducing stress throughout the week. DeStress Monday provides helpful, evidence-based stress reduction tools and resources distributed through their website, social media and weekly newsletters. Have a happy week and check out these free destressing resources for yourself, your friends and colleagues at: *https://www.destressmonday.org/#*.

Our foodservice facility prepares and serves some products which may contain ingredients identified as food allergens. For more information on food allergies, go to http://www.foodallergy.org/.

# Fresh Pick Recipe

#### LEMONY SMASHED POTATOES

- 12 new potatoes (small)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 cup fresh parsley, sliced
- 1 cup nonfat sour cream
- 1 1/2 tablespoon chives, chopped small
- sea salt and pepper
- 1. Boil potatoes in pan of water until tender and drain.
- 2. Grease a large baking sheet with 1/2 tablespoon of the olive oil.
- Place the potatoes on the baking sheet. Smash each potato with your hand until they break slightly open.
- Mix the remaining oil with the lemon juice. Drizzle mixture over the potatoes. Salt and pepper the potatoes.
- Bake in 450 degree oven for 25 minutes or until the potatoes are a bit crispy and golden.
- 6. Remove potatoes from the oven and sprinkle with the parsley.
- Mix the chives with the sour cream and serve on the side.

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SCHOOL MEAL PRICES: Students who are reduce-priced eligible will receive student meals at no cost. BREAKFAST: PAID: \$X.XX MS: \$X.XX HS: \$X.XX LUNCH: PAID: \$X.XX MS: \$X.XX HS: \$X.XX

