

NEWS RELEASE

Wayne Township Board of Education

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Mark Toback, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(973) 633-3000
mtoback@wayneschools.com



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Wayne Valley High School Wins a \$5K Rachael Ray ProStart Grow Grant to Nurture Its Culinary and Restaurant Management Education Program

(Wayne, New Jersey) - The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) today announced that Wayne Valley is one of 38 high schools from across the country selected to receive a \$5,000 grant to support its ProStart culinary and restaurant management program through the Rachael Ray Foundation ProStart Grow Grant program.

“ProStart programs, and the educators who support them, provide high school students across the country with skills they need to be successful throughout life,” **said Rachael Ray, award-winning television personality and philanthropist.** “We [The Rachael Ray Foundation] are proud to support the dreams, passion and hard work that these Grow Grant recipients display in their classrooms and schools as they cultivate the next generation of restaurant and foodservice professionals.”

The Wayne Valley High School has been updating the culinary arts facilities from home-style kitchens to industry grade kitchens and equipment over the past three years. This Prostart grant will provide the program the ability to create better educational and demonstration experiences for the students and has afforded us equipment to allow students to explore new career avenues such as food photography and food styling. We were also able to purchase sous vide machines. Sous Vide cooking has had a major resurgence in the past five years and has become mainstream with food items at major brands across the country.

To-date, the Rachael Ray Foundation ProStart Grow Grant Program has provided \$590,000 to schools demonstrating a strong need to engage and educate high school students interested in exploring restaurant and foodservice careers. Wayne Valley High School, one of four winners from the State of New Jersey. The complete list of 2022 Rachael Ray ProStart Grow Grant winners can be found [here](#).

“The opportunities available today have changed tremendously in the past 20 years and these opportunities are endless. The world is no longer cut and dry about careers in the hospitality industry.” Belinda Prindilus-Dacosta, Wayne Valley High School’s Culinary Arts Teacher.

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