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## Oregon public school to serve organic lunches

By WillametteLive Editors

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Trillium Charter School in North Portland has made groundbreaking decisions since its conception. Now another important first will impact students' health for the rest of their lives.

Trillium will begin serving meals from "Organic Fresh Fingers." The Salem-based organic food delivery service will provide milk, breakfast and lunch to students throughout the 2008-09 school year. For about the same cost as super-sizing a value meal at McDonalds, school age children will be eating healthy, locally grown organic lunches in a public school setting.

"We have wanted to have our own food program from the beginning," said Arianne Newton, Community Development and Garden and Food Director. "Our garden program is strong, and our food program is about teaching healthy eating and sustainable practices, all things we feel are worthy."

Organic Fresh Fingers focuses on delivering local organic meals to daycare centers and pre-schools and now public schools.

"We are excited for the chance to feed school-age children. Nutrition is important, and just because it's a cafeteria, doesn't mean food can't taste good and be healthy for you," said Evann Remington, CEO of Organic Fresh Fingers.

In Oregon, organic farming represents a \$52 million annual slice of the agricultural industry.

"This is a fabulous model," said Newton. "Because we are a public charter school, a lot of our decisions are transferable to regular public schools. Portland is so ripe and ready for healthy decisions when it comes to children. It's just a matter of time before everyone is doing it."

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