

# Press Release



## Battle Ground Public Schools

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### Young chefs' creations seen and tasted at Sodexo's annual culinary competition



**Left:** Mitch Bateman, Rhiannon Smith (middle) and Ashley Hoopman of BGHS Team 2 prepare poached salmon in lemon beurre blanc sauce. **Right:** BGHS Team 1, from left, Paolo Espiritu, Brian Gonzalez, Ryan Leathers and Bo Smith (partly visible), fix lamb navarin.

It's May, and that means playoff time for spring sports such as baseball and track. It's also time for the third annual Sodexo high school culinary competition.

Six four-student teams gathered at Battle Ground High School Saturday, May 7, to prepare, display and serve their dishes. Then, they waited for the decisions of the judges, who were pre-selected for some categories but mostly were anyone who attended the event.

The young chefs and their teachers had carefully planned for the entrees they would prepare in the BGHS kitchen. But salads were different. Sodexo, the food service contractor for Battle Ground Public Schools and other districts, provided a variety of ingredients with which each team created its own salad to accompany their entrees.

The two Battle Ground High teams were members of Jessica Drake's Creative Cooking II class and the Prairie High team members are in Raquelle Domenici's class. The culinary programs are part of the district's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program.

The Washougal High team's cassoulet kielbasa, with white beans, tomatoes, apples and spices, plus asparagus, a flaky biscuit and salad, was voted "best overall" and "best taste." The class is taught by Mary Walker. Winners in other categories were Battle Ground Team 1, Battle Ground Team 2, Prairie High, Woodland and Camas.

It is said there is no such thing as a free lunch. But those who filled up on the attractive, tasty, fresh and wholesome samples prepared by the students Saturday probably would beg to differ.



*Attendees at Saturday's culinary competition at BGHS line up to vote on best presentation for entrees and salads. New Battle Ground School Board member Ken Root (jeans and black jacket) is second in line.*

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