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Chartwells begins to unveil new food options

By **Mary E. Iorio**, OU Writer

Moms don't need to worry. Oakland University's 16,000 students will have plenty to eat this fall.

From Subway to Chick-fil-A to vegetarian meals and traditional home cooking, students, faculty and staff will find a smorgasbord of menu options when they visit campus.

Returning students will find a new look and new restaurants along with the familiar smoothie stop. Oakland University signed a new, 5-year contract with Chartwells College and University Dining Services to provide food options across campus. Selected in the spring, Chartwells feeds students at more than 230 colleges and universities across the nation. Among them: the University of Miami, Arkansas State University, SUNY-Albany and DePaul.

"We will have a wide range of delicious options for OU's students," said Chartwells Resident District Manager Andrew Willows.

Replacing Burger King and Taco Bell in the food court will be deli sandwiches from Subway, Coyote Jack's hamburgers and Chick-fil-A's original chicken sandwich with waffle fries.

Other options include:

- fresh baked desserts, breads and pastries at Double Tree Bakery;
- soups and warm bakery items at Au Bon Pain;
- pizza at Noble Roman's;
- plenty of green, leafy vegetables at the vegetarian option, Terra Ve;
- showcase meals, such as stir fries and seafood, developed by the campus' head chef;
- Krispy Kreme donuts, Starbucks coffee and Freshens smoothies.

In cooperation with Chartwells, the university made renovations to the Oakland Center's Pioneer Food Court and Vandenberg Dining Center during the summer.

"It's our plan to have everything open by the time the semester begins," said Eleanor Reynolds, director of University Housing and Food Services. "We were doing a lot of construction during the last few weeks before school starts. So there may be a few signs that still need hanging, but we should be ready to open."

Students in Vandenberg can expect made-to-order omelets, pancakes, Belgian waffles, cereals, pastries and fruit for breakfast. Believe it or not, Reynolds said, the most popular cereal is Captain Crunch. "You cannot even imagine how much Captain Crunch we go through."

Vandenberg also will serve grilled sandwiches, from the familiar hamburger to a three-cheese sandwich on Texas toast to honey-roasted turkey and ham. Those suffering with a bit of homesickness can take comfort in casseroles, carved meats and traditional entrees. The Double Tree Bakery will serve up its desserts and pastries daily at Vandenberg.

"We've added a new meal plan this year called 'Unlimited,'" Reynolds said. "For the most part, people with that meal plan will be able to come and go as often as they want to in Vandenberg."

This year's meal plan options offer students the opportunity to design their eating choices around their course schedule. Those with classes on the far side of campus can choose a meal plan that allows them to eat more often at the campus' public food counters.

"We had meal exchanges last year, and we'll do that again for students with the Unlimited and 14 Meal plans," Reynolds said. Students will be able to swipe their card and get a meal at Subway or Chik-Fil-A or any of the other counters."

Other changes:

- The Pioneer Food Court will stay open a half hour longer, until 7:30 p.m. on weekdays, with Subway available until 11

p.m.

- Resident students will have a new Saturday-Sunday brunch at Vandenberg Hall. In previous years, they had to walk to the Oakland Center.

SUMMARY

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