



**K. ERIK SWANSON, PhD**  
Superintendent of Education

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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Public Information Officer  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **GDOE Students to Compete in the 2024 “Sodexo Future Chefs Challenge”**

*Tiyan, Guam* - The Guam Department of Education students are set to showcase their culinary talents in the 2024 "Sodexo Future Chefs Challenge." The event, scheduled on Monday, March 25, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Jose Rios Middle School, marks the third consecutive year of this engaging competition. It's a wonderful opportunity for young aspiring chefs to demonstrate their skills, creativity, and passion for food, while promoting healthy eating habits and nutrition education among their peers.

The initiative to engage 4th and 5th graders in a culinary competition is a brilliant way to integrate education with practical life skills. It not only encourages young students to think about nutrition and healthy eating habits but also fosters creativity and a sense of independence as they learn to prepare their family's favorite dishes. With Guam students participating alongside thousands from across the US, it showcases a growing interest in culinary arts at an early age and promotes a hands-on approach to learning about food and wellness.

The Future Chefs event is a fantastic initiative that encourages elementary school students to engage with healthy eating habits by creating recipes inspired by their cherished home-cooked meals. This district-wide competition not only fosters creativity and culinary skills among young students but also emphasizes the importance of nutrition and healthy living. With the Guam Department of Education participating, it joins a nationwide movement to inspire the next generation of culinary enthusiasts and health-conscious individuals. The event's focus on originality, taste, and healthfulness ensures that the experience is both educational and enjoyable for all participants.

The emphasis on culinary arts in education is a testament to the growing recognition of diverse skill sets as an integral part of student development. Superintendent Dr. Erik Swanson's statement highlights the importance of nurturing students' talents beyond traditional academic subjects, offering them a platform to express their creativity and cultural heritage through cooking. Such initiatives not only enrich the educational experience but also prepare students for real-world scenarios, fostering a sense of confidence and self-sufficiency. Encouraging the mastery of culinary skills can lead to healthier eating habits, potential career paths, and the preservation of family and cultural traditions. It's a holistic approach that benefits individual growth and community well-being.

For more information, please refer to the attached flyer or contact Shanae Pangelinan at (671) 788-4422 or email at [shanae.ooka@sodexo.com](mailto:shanae.ooka@sodexo.com)

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