

The Pennsylvania Farm to School Network Success Story:

CHEDER MENACHEM

Luzerne County, PA



Students at Cheder Menachem visited the Wilkes Barre Farmers Market in Luzerne County this past fall to purchase and enjoy fresh produce. The field trip took place before the weeklong Jewish holiday Sukkot, which celebrates the fall harvest. Food Programs Director **Rabbi Yossi Schulman** wanted the students to have an opportunity to interact with the farmers who grow their food and to choose foods they were excited about eating.

Students were tasked with choosing produce to bring back to school for snack time. Cheder Menachem purchased one bushel each of locally grown honeycrisp apples, gala apples, Asian pears, peaches

and pears from Brace's Orchard to serve their K-8 students for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program.

“My family has gone picking at this local farm before,” says Rabbi Schulman. “I am grateful that our students could enjoy fresh, local produce and meet the farmers in our area.”

The produce purchased was funded by the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Cheder Menachem received extra funding to be able to take students to the market.

“It’s important that students appreciate where their food comes from and how it arrives on their plates.”

- **Rabbi Yossi Schulman,**
Food Programs Director





Cheder Menachem's goal is to advance awareness of nutrition and health to their students and appreciation of the farming process in relation to Jewish cultural food and the Jewish holidays throughout the year. "It's important that students appreciate where their food comes from and how it arrives on their plates," says Rabbi Schulman.

Cheder Menachem recently received a PA Farm Bill Farm to School grant to incorporate a school garden and to take students on more farm field trips.



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