

Bringing hands-on learning to life in state-of-the-art FCS labs

Customer profile

Name of school:

Newnan School District

Location:

Newnan, GA



After an F4 tornado destroyed Newnan High School and damaged several other buildings in the district, students spent the next three years learning out of trailers and makeshift classrooms. During that time, FCS staff focused on bringing meaningful learning experiences to their students without a dedicated culinary space while also preparing for the grand opening of their new campus in 2024–25.

FCS Teacher and Department Chair Susan Turner faced the challenge of equipping the new school's modern food labs with everything students would need. With the help of Nasco Education, she was able to maximize her funding and build the FCS environment of her dreams.

It was a stressful and busy time, said Susan, and partnering with a vendor that could move quickly and pivot when necessary was essential to getting everything ready on time. "I knew I had a very large task," said Susan. "Nasco Education worked very hard to find the items that I requested. They were a one-stop shop, and the turnaround was very quick."

It was the personalized service from Nasco Education Consultant Trudy Rusch that truly proved invaluable, said Susan. Trudy helped



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— Susan Turner, FCS Teacher & Dept. Chair

find items on Susan’s wish list that met her funding requirements; managed multiple POs for culinary and childcare supplies; and provided constant updates on pricing and shipments.

With Nasco Education’s help, Susan was able to outfit Newnan High School’s six labs in time for the 2024–25 school year.

Reactions from the school community

When the FCS shipments came in, it was like Christmas morning, said Susan. “The kids were super excited about it. We had two classes of kids lined up from the box truck all the way up to our classroom helping to unload.”

During their open house, the community was invited in to see the new school spaces, and they were stunned at the learning opportunities available for their students. “Having the kids come in and see all the things they would get to work with — it’s special — especially because we’re a Title I school.”

“A lot of parents remember when they were in Home Economics, but it didn’t look anything like this. This is state of the art, and the students get to be hands-on with everything,” said Susan. “Students are being exposed

to things they normally wouldn’t be exposed to. It’s very important to us that we balance teaching them how things work in a home with how they work in the food industry.”

Susan and team are also finding creative ways to tie in business lessons with hands-on learning. They recently teamed up with their district’s Director of Nutrition to have students make and taste-test different types of pizza for the school lunch menu. It was a fun and engaging way to explore food science while also learning about school nutrition guidelines and how government funding works.

A new chapter for FCS education

With thoughtful planning and the right partnership with Nasco Education, Susan Turner and the FCS staff at Newnan created spaces where students can explore, experiment, and grow. The Newnan School District’s new FCS labs are more than just classrooms — they’re hubs for career readiness, creativity, and real-world learning.



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