



Starting a School Coffee Cart

10 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD START A COFFEE CART!

1. Vocational Skills Development: food preparation, customer service, money handling, inventory management, and time management.
2. Social Skills: greet customers, engage in polite conversation, and handle various customer service situations
3. Functional Math: measuring ingredients, calculating prices, handling money, giving change, and tracking expenses.
4. Functional Reading: read and understand recipes, customer orders, and product labels.
5. Communication Skills: communicate with customers to take orders, provide information about menu items, and address any special requests or concerns.
6. Work Ethics and Responsibility: be responsible for their duties, such as arriving on time, maintaining cleanliness, and ensuring product quality.
7. Self-Esteem and Confidence: Successfully managing a coffee cart and receiving positive feedback from customers can boost students' self-esteem and confidence. They can take pride in their work and achievements, leading to a greater sense of self-worth.
8. Inclusion and Acceptance: A coffee cart run by students with disabilities can promote inclusivity and acceptance within the school community. It provides an opportunity for students with disabilities to participate actively and contribute to the school environment.
9. Community Engagement: connect with the broader school community. It encourages interaction with teachers, staff, and fellow students, fostering a sense of belonging and community engagement.
10. Transition to Adulthood: By developing vocational, social, and life skills through the coffee cart experience, students can better prepare themselves for the transition to adulthood. They may gain insights into potential career paths and develop the skills needed for independent living.

Incorporating a coffee cart into a school setting for students with disabilities not only offers practical skills but also promotes a more inclusive and supportive learning environment. It can be a valuable addition to a school's special education program, providing students with opportunities for personal growth and skill development.

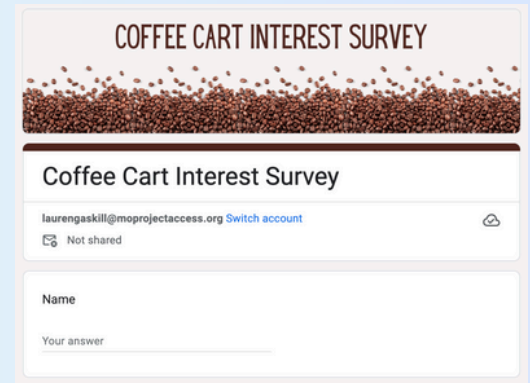
PRACTICAL STEPS TO GET STARTED

1. GET FEEDBACK FROM YOUR SCHOOL

Send out a google form to find out what your teachers and staff are interested in purchasing! We created one for you [here](#)!

2. BUY YOUR SUPPLIES

Send out a google form to find out what your teachers and staff are interested in purchasing! We created a list of links for you to shop off of [here](#).

A screenshot of a Google Form titled "COFFEE CART INTEREST SURVEY". The form has a header image of coffee beans. Below the title, it shows the email address "laurengaskill@moprojectaccess.org" and a "Switch account" link. There is a "Not shared" status indicator. The form includes a "Name" field and a "Your answer" text area.

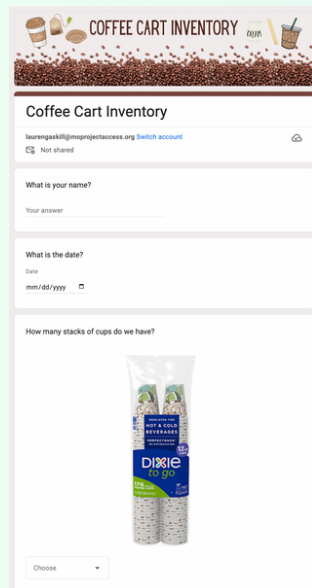
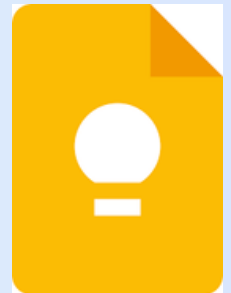
3. INCORPORATE VISUAL SUPPORTS

Utilize visual supports to help your students know which classrooms are interested in getting coffee today. At our school, we had each teacher use the sign, whether they participated in coffee cart or not so our students could practice reading the signs and discriminating, and so we did not disrupt classrooms to check and see if teachers wanted coffee. Get a copy of our sign [here](#).



4. DECIDE HOW YOU WILL CHARGE AND KEEP TRACK

Our school utilized google keep to create pre-paid accounts. Watch a video by clicking on the google keep icon to see how we did that! We also had a money drawer where students would make change and accept payment for the coffee and treats.

A screenshot of a Google Form titled "COFFEE CART INVENTORY". The form has a header image of coffee beans. Below the title, it shows the email address "laurengaskill@moprojectaccess.org" and a "Switch account" link. There is a "Not shared" status indicator. The form includes a "What is your name?" field, a "What is the date?" field with a date picker, and a "How many stacks of cups do we have?" field with a dropdown menu. There is also a picture of a stack of Dixie cups.

5. CREATE AN INVENTORY SYSTEM

We use a google form with pictures to make it more appropriate for our students. We created an example one you can find [here](#)! I created a QR code for my form and printed it in my classroom so my students could easily access the form using our classroom devices.

6. TEACH YOUR STUDENTS THE COFFEE CART JOBS AND EXPECTATIONS

Our coffee cart had 4 jobs, cart pusher, money collector, ipad, and greeter. Each of these jobs were clearly defined. At the beginning of each quarter, students would fill out a job application to apply for the job they wanted. During 1 year, students had an opportunity to do each job. Get access to these resources [here](#)!



GET
CONNECTED!



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