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Latest Health Inspection Results from Darien Schools and Food-Serving Establishments

Author : David Gurliacci

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Health inspection ratings ranged from good to fair in the latest town Health Department reports for three more Darien school cafeterias and three food-serving establishments in town.

All public school cafeterias in town have been inspected, with none getting below an "A" rating, the best in the town's A-B-C ratings system (full details from each school cafeteria are shown below).

All three commercial food establishments were being reinspected after poor results in previous recent inspections.

Most Recent Inspection Results

Here's an alphabetical list of the most recently released health inspection results (an explanation for each part of the list, including links, is just below the list).

Keep in mind that a food-serving establishment with a history of good ratings may occasionally get a poor inspection rating, occasionally the best do, and every restaurant normally gets a few things wrong (an explanation of how this list is put together is immediately below it):

[Editor's note: When an inspection results in a perfect score of 100, no "Inspector's Remarks" or "Inspector's Comments" sections are published, so no images of those reports for schools are shown here.]

LATEST SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

—**Darien High School** — High School Lane — [Feb. 5](#) — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 100

—**Middlesex Middle School** — 204 Hollow Tree Ridge Road — [Feb. 2](#) — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 99 — *Inspector's Remarks:* "Labeling violation: spray bottles and granular in glass jar." — *Inspector's Comments:* "Hand washing and glove use observed! New hot holding units."

—**Tokeneke School** — 7 Old Farm Road — [Feb. 5](#) — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 100

Previously released school cafeteria inspection results:

—**Hindley School** — 10 Nearwater Lane — [Jan. 24](#) — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 98 — *Inspector's Remarks:* "Droppings observed in cold-holding front unit (Avon pest control recently on site, Jan. 16)." *Inspector's Comments:* "Hand-washing observed and glove use observed!"

—**Holmes School** — 18 Hoyt St. — [Jan. 30](#) — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 98 — *Inspectors Remarks:* "Food stored on the walk-in freezer floor." — *Inspector's Comments:* "Clean and organized! Vent soup in walk-in (crockpot)to cool."

—**Ox Ridge School** — 395 Mansfield Ave. — [Jan. 30](#) — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 98 — *Inspector's*

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Remarks: "Food stored on the walk-in floors." — *Inspector's Comments:* "Excellent hand-washing practices observed!"

—**Royle School** — 133 Mansfield Ave. — [Jan. 30](#) — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score; 96 — *Inspector's Remarks:* Food stored on the floor of the freezer walk-in; break down slicer and completely sanitize."

OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS:

—Estia's Back Porch Cafe — 1020 Post Road — Feb. 2 report, [Feb. 3 post date](#) on website — [Town Rating: B](#) (as stated on website; initial report said "A") — State Score: 96 — *a reinspection*

—Uncle's Deli — 1041 Post Road — Feb. 3 — [Town Rating: B](#) — State Score: 91 — *a reinspection*

—Upper Crust Bakery and Cafe — 980 Post Road— [Feb. 3](#) — [Town Rating: A](#) — State Score: 96 — *a reinspection*

Dates link to the food establishment's inspection report referenced here (when available, sometimes it takes a while to get posted online), and **Darien's own A/B/C ratings** link to a Web page showing several of the restaurant's recent inspection ratings.

See also:

- [Our previous article](#) showing restaurant inspection ratings (Feb. 2)
- [Dentists Rejoice: Darien Dessert War Declared — Sample and Vote on Your Favorite](#) (Jan. 29)
- [Roost — a New, Restaurant/Coffee Shop — Opens Monday at 1950 Post Rd in Noroton](#) (Jan. 26)
- [Darien Health Department Starts Letter Grades for Food Service Inspections](#)

For restaurants and other food-serving establishments rated "C," and for some others of interest to the public (like schools) additional information is given. When we provide that information here, then words within brackets ("[]") have been added for clarity by Darienite.com; semicolons (";") separate individual comments by the inspectors. Each comment separated by semicolons is about a particular violation that triggers a deduction of one or more points from a perfect state score of 100.

How Darien's Food-Serving Places Are Rated

Restaurants in town are rated under the Darien Health Department's own A/B/C ratings system. Health inspectors also use the state health code regulations to score restaurants, with a perfect score set at 100, and demerits (of 1 to 4 points each) for various code violations.

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The Darien system takes into account problems that are ongoing, so a restaurant scoring higher than others on the state scale may actually get a lower score on the Darien scale.

You can find the past several inspection ratings under the Darien ratings system for food-serving establishments along with copies of inspection reports, including state health code scores [on this website](#).

Any establishment actually deemed unsafe can be closed by the town Health Department until violations are fixed. Town Health Director David Knauf says that has never happened in the time he's been with the department.