Community Partnership Revives Painesville City Local Schools ‘Lunch Box’ Trailer Just in Time for Summer Program Launch

Since 2016, the Painesville City Local School District’s Lunch Box trailer has been an integral part of summer break for many families.







"Any vehicle has a couple of little things here and there. You have to work around nuts and bolts that you can't remove."

Kim Hoffmann, franchise owner, FASTSIGNS of Mentor

The 30-foot trailer — easily recognized by its custom, colorful vinyl wrap — delivers free meals to children throughout the city of Painesville, 30 miles east of Cleveland. Operating under the USDA's Seamless Summer program, the service complements the free and reduced-cost meals that many of the district's children qualify for during the school year. In a community where 38% of residents aged 18 and under live in households with incomes beneath the poverty threshold[1], the Lunch Box is a daily opportunity for many to get a balanced, nutritious meal during summer break.

From the racetrack to the schoolyard

Before becoming the Lunch Box, the trailer was owned by a NASCAR® team and used for transporting cars and equipment. Purchased by the district in 2015, the trailer's interior was turned into a mobile serving kitchen. The exterior, meanwhile, was transformed with vinyl donated by Avery Dennison.

Since then, the Lunch Box has been going to schoolyards and parks in Painesville throughout the summer, following a daily schedule distributed to the community. At each stop, the Lunch Box staff opens up the trailer's awning and serves the line of kids eagerly awaiting their lunch. After about 15 minutes, the staff quickly packs up and tows the trailer to the next site. A typical Lunch Box summer involves serving up to 10,000 free lunches!

The Lunch Box runs into trouble

The Lunch Box hit a severe snag, however, one day near the end of summer 2025. While in transport between stops, the serving window's awning came loose and was torn off by the wind. Some of the trailer's body panels and the vinyl wrap were also damaged. Total repair estimates were very costly, making the future of the Lunch Box uncertain.

"We had conversations about how if we couldn't get support to cover the cost of these repairs, maybe we wouldn't be able to run the Lunch Box as we had for the previous nine summers," says Michelle Papic, director of nutrition services, Painesville City Local Schools. "So we were ready to work with the community and try to get partners involved."



A community steps up

The district lined up multiple partners to repair and rewrap the Lunch Box. They set a goal to have it back on the road by the summer of 2026.

Avery Dennison once again provided the vinyl materials — enough to re-wrap the entire trailer. Wolf Designs of Painesville, which created the artwork for the original wrap, also reprised its role. Students at Auburn Career Center, a local vocational school, helped with the trailer repairs. And FASTSIGNS® of Mentor, Ohio (a neighboring city), printed and installed the vinyl.

Additional support came from the United Way of Lake County, Ohio, the Lake County General Health District, Lubrizol Corporation and other donors in the community.



A multi-stage effort to get the Lunch Box back on the road

The project was carried out in multiple stages in early 2026.

First, the trailer was brought to FASTSIGNS to remove the old wrap. Then it was off to the Career Center for body work. Michelle and Wolf Designs, meanwhile, decided to make only minor changes to the original wrap's artwork. This would create continuity and ensure that the Lunch Box would remain easily recognizable in the community.

Finally, the Lunch Box was brought back to FASTSIGNS for installation of the new wrap. "It had to look awesome when it was done," said Kim Hoffmann, franchise owner, FASTSIGNS of Mentor. "I believe that was Michelle's only requirement."

Fortunately, the Lunch Box was in great hands.



With three decades of experience in the FASTSIGNS network, Kim purchased the Mentor franchise in 2015. Running an Epson S80600 commercial printer and a Mimaki plotter cutter, the business creates trade show graphics, banners and safety signage for businesses across northeast Ohio. The franchise has also grown to become a specialist in vehicle graphics and vinyl wraps. Kim and her team handle everything from design and printing to installation.

Relying on Avery Dennison materials: MPI 1105 film and DOL 1360Z overlaminate

FASTSIGNS printed the Lunch Box wrap on Avery Dennison MPI 1105 Easy Apply™ RS Supercast Digital Wrapping Film.

MPI 1105 wrapping film is a premium, high-gloss cast film with superior 3D conformability, stunning printability and maximum durability for surfaces ranging from flat to complex. The film's Easy Apply™ RS technology provides a lower initial tack, ensuring faster application speed and greater convenience.

The film was paired with DOL 1360Z overlaminate for its additional UV and scratch protection, as well as graphic durability. With a little luck, the district ought to get another decade of service out of their wrap.

"The MPI 1105 film just goes on really nicely," says Kim. "We can line it up and slide it around to get each of the panels to line up correctly. The material makes it really easy because the adhesive really doesn't stick until you want it to. And then once you get the panel lined up, you tack it down, and then you work on that panel and permanently attach it."

Years of experience come through in the clutch

Wrapping a 30-foot box trailer with flat, billboard-like surfaces may seem straightforward at first glance. But the Lunch Box wrap was not without its challenges. That's where Kim's years of industry experience came through in the clutch.

"Any vehicle has a couple of little things here and there," says Kim. "You have to work around nuts and bolts that you can't remove. And sometimes there's a little bit of damage on the vehicle. This was the case with the Lunch Box trailer. You just have to be careful how you apply the graphic there, though the area is totally workable."

The Lunch Box rides again!

On May 23, 2026, the final afternoon school bell signaled the start of summer for Painesville City Schools' students. It also signaled the rebirth of the Lunch Box. The trailer began its scheduled rounds just a few days later.

"The kids don't even notice the difference," says Michelle. "They're just excited to see the Lunch Box. It's back to business as usual, which is what we wanted all along."

She continues: "We're beyond grateful. Without the support of the community and all of our partners, this would've been a big expense for the district. We're grateful to have the opportunity to keep it running."

Learn more about the Painesville City Local School District's Lunch Box: **painesville-city-summer-meals-the-lunchbox**

Meet Kim Hoffmann and the team at FASTSIGNS® of Mentor, Ohio: **fastsigns.com/mentor-oh/**

Check out the Avery Dennison Graphics Solutions Portfolio, including the MPI 1105 film and DOL overlaminate series: **graphics.averydennison.com/mpi1105**

[1]**United States Census Bureau, Profile of Painesville city, Lake County, Ohio (Accessed June 16, 2026)**



© 2026 Avery Dennison Corporation. All rights reserved. The "Making Possible" tagline, Avery Dennison and all other Avery Dennison brands, product names and codes are trademarks of Avery Dennison Corporation. All other brands or product names are trademarks of their respective owners. Fortune 500® is a trademark of Time, Inc. Branding and other information on any samples depicted are fictitious. Any resemblance to actual names is purely coincidental.

AVERY DENNISON

MAKING POSSIBLE™