

# Jenk's Pizza satisfies the appetite for all ages

By Jules Zipp

People tend to love pizza. And when they grow up with a local pizza parlor, the recipe leaves a lasting impression on their taste buds. And that rings true for the young adults, the community and residents of Dale who stay loyal to 32+ years old Jenk's Pizza. Nearly as old as the original dough, Dale native Brandon Beard loyally eats there

once a week. Owner Betty Jenkins started the restaurant in 1986 selling take and bake pizzas at Tiny's Soda Shop on Washington Street. After two years, the pizza joint moved to its current location, a remodeled house sold by Walter Wilkey. They started baking the pizzas and soon added other menu items such as burgers, salads and their famous strombolis.

Aside from supporting the local area's appetite for pizza, Jenk's Pizza also serves as an ally to youth in the Dale community. Soon after opening, they began partnering with the David Turnham Education Center to reward hard-working students. Each month as part of the Stars Program, teachers nominate two students from each grade displaying all around good character or tre-

mendous growth. Students receive a David Turnham Star dog tag recognizing and each get a seven-inch Jenk's Pizza lunch with Principal Jen Jazyk. She says the program motivates students to do their best and reflects the school's growth mindset.

"It's about noticing the good. What you draw attention to you get more of," Jazyk explains. "Jenk's has always been a longtime supporter of our school. They go out of their way to support our kids."

Jenk's Pizza also supports high school students as the first employer of many local students. About 60 percent of employees are high schoolers. Darrel Jenkins mentioned that over 700 students have worked for the Jenkins Family. A family business, Betty's husband Darrel and two of their three sons assist in running Jenk's Pizza. Jenk's Pizza serves as a community gathering place for families and friends with a back room that seats 30 and

includes a television. Kiwanis meets every Monday at Jenk's Pizza. The restaurant hours are Sunday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Wednesday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.



Jenk's Pizza location before remodeling began.



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