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Olive Theory Pizzeria staff works through the evening rush Nov. 14. Olive Theory and Downers Grove North students recently teamed up to host a fundraiser.

Olive Theory, DGN students pair up for pizza fundraiser

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DOWNERS GROVE - Three new pizzas showed up on the menu of Downers Grove's build-your-own pizza place Olive Theory Pizzeria earlier this week, thanks to the imagination and business acumen of some local high schoolers.

Business students at Downers Grove North met staff at the pizzeria earlier this semester to learn the ins and outs of running a business, including running numbers, budgeting and even concocting new pizzas for profit.

Olive Theory employee Brian Dong said the students were in the driver's seat throughout the process.

"We took them through the line and they made the pizzas exactly how they wanted," he said. "We were excited to

Know more

■ For more information about Olive Theory Pizzeria, visit www.olivetheorypizzeria.com.

■ For more information about Downers Grove North and District 99, visit www.csd99.org.

work with them and support them as much as we can."

For years, North students and teachers have partnered with local organizations to get a firsthand look at running a business.

Dong said participating in the program was an easy decision when they were approached with the opportunity

"It speaks really strongly to us," he said. "We're a business, but importantly we're a foundation of giving back to the community."

After students spent weeks working on the pizzas, putting out marketing materials and getting ready, visitors got to buy the three different pizzas on Nov. 14 and 15, with a portion of all proceeds going back toward the high school's business classes.

The class with the best-selling pizza will get to enjoy the fruits of their doughy labor with a victorious pizza party.

Dong said the business tries to donate one pizza for every 10 sold, making Downers Grove North one of several organizations Olive Theory works with in the community.

"We're giving back as much as we can, so that's something that's wrapped up into what we do," he said. "We're not just some local business trying to get big and to get rich. We're here to help people."