

## Nutrition

Food is fuel, for mind and body, and our body depends on nutrients to perform and thrive. Having a balanced diet of a variety of foods and nutrients will help keep your body strong and fit. A balanced diet nourishes your body. Your musculoskeletal system requires certain nutrients to function optimally in terms of muscle growth, performance and recovery.

## **Optimal nutrition:**

- Improves mental function and clarity
- Increases overall energy levels
- Facilitates tissue repair
- Improves organ and cell function
- Reduces strain on soft tissues and joints
- Preserves bone mass and lean tissue



## Tips to help improve nutrition:

- Plan and prepare ahead be intentional with your food choices to help your body and your
- Grocery shop with a plan. Walk the perimeter of the store first for healthier food choices (produce, seafood, meat, eggs, and dairy). Make a list and stick to it to avoid impulse buying. Base meals on lifestyle and family commitments.
- Think about how food makes you feel. Think like an athlete high fat and gassy foods are not so comfortable when you need to be on your feet. Save those favorites for your post-work meal and stick to items that you know you will be able to tolerate.
- Depending on your schedule it may be helpful to plan for the week ahead and set aside some time to shop for groceries, come up with a meal plan and prepare and portion food for the week.