

## THE BREAKFAST CLUB

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It's Sunday morning and you're just waking up, stretching and rubbing your eyes. Regardless of whether you went out last night or stayed in watching re-runs of "Law & Order" on a loop with your best friend, your first thought is probably "Where can I get something good for breakfast in this neck of the woods?" Worry not — we've had that very thought and we've compiled and reviewed five breakfast hot spots around Kirksville for your morning convenience.

### 1. DONUT PALACE

**Grace Bueckendorf** — While this is the newest breakfast joint in Kirksville, it quickly is becoming a favorite. With friendly service, reasonable prices and tasty donuts, it's hard to go wrong here. I've only been once to get donuts for the office and they disappeared faster than mashed potatoes during chicken bowl day in the dining halls. If time is of the essence, an in-and-out donut place is perfect.

**Katey Stoetzel** — Though not the healthiest of breakfasts, Donut Palace offers a wide variety of donuts for a quick morning meal. Anything from long johns to apple fritters are available. There's even a bacon donut if you happen to be feeling adventurous at 8 a.m. Of course, you can't have donuts without coffee, and Donut Palace has regular coffee with several creamers to choose from.

Open as early as 5 a.m., breakfast at Donut Palace lasts until 6 p.m. during weekdays and 4 p.m. Saturdays. It has a small-town diner feel to it, so expect service to be welcoming even if you're just in and out fast enough to grab your food. But if you're not in any hurry, stay and relax at one of the tables. With their cheap prices, you might find yourself back at the counter for seconds.

### 2. PANCAKE CITY

**Grace B.** — I've never been here during conventional breakfast hours, but I have ordered breakfast food. There is no pretense here, just tables, coffee and good food. They live up to their name, serving many varieties of warm and tasty pancakes. However, don't be afraid to stray from their title food because their eggs, hash browns and toast are just as good.

**Katey S.** — Without an IHOP around these parts, Pancake City is the next best option for anyone in the mood for pancakes. The classic buttermilk pancakes are the way to go, but any combinations of eggs and bacon will work too. If you're someone who enjoys breakfast food but not breakfast time, Pancake City is open 24 hours Friday and Saturday, until 9 p.m. on Sundays and 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays.



### 3. DINER 54

**Grace B.** — I went here with my dad once when he dropped me off for school and we both liked it quite a bit. He even asks to go here when he's in town, although that might be partly because it's about the only place he's eaten here. Diner 54 has an authentic diner feel with a menu to match. It offers everything from pie to pancakes to cheeseburgers. The breakfast menu is extensive, with skillet, pancakes and toast galore. There's plenty of space and options, making this a great choice, especially if you're in a large group.

**Katey S.** — I mostly frequent Diner 54 for lunch or dinner, but their breakfast is just as good. Omelets are probably the best option for egg lovers. Not mention breakfast is available throughout the day. Diner 54 also has free Wi-Fi.

### 4. HY-VEE

**Grace B.** — The first time I went here, I was skeptical. One of my good friends asked if I wanted to get breakfast during New Year's morning. Groggily, I nodded and hopped in her car. Just as I was beginning to wake up, I noticed she had parked in front of Hy-Vee and was confused. But apparently Hy-Vee has a whole breakfast menu, dining area, Caribou coffee and everything about the experience was delightful. I was surprised by how much I liked it — at that moment, I made a New Year's resolution to eat breakfast at Hy-Vee more often.

**Katey S.** — My Hy-Vee breakfast experience is nonexistent, but I do recommend the Starbucks inside Hy-Vee as an early morning coffee stop. There's a variety of teas and scones to choose from at Starbucks as a breakfast meal.

### 5. McDONALD'S

**Grace B.** — Mickey D's is always a prime choice for a cheap breakfast — it is the original fast food breakfast. Let's not forget McDonald's all but decided when standard breakfast hours are — 6-10:30 a.m. Fast food breakfast is a beautiful thing — and many people like an occasional McGriddle or biscuit sandwich. The best part about McDonald's is you can order your food and pay in fewer than 20 words, a perfect breakfast solution for those who aren't exactly morning people. Another draw is the revamp of the coffee menu, entitled McCafé. I can only speak for the vanilla latte, but it's good. Very good.

**Katey S.** — McDonald's breakfast is the best thing about the place. It's cheap and it's good. Personally, I go for the biscuit, egg and bacon meal. And as a huge coffee drinker, I was genuinely surprised to find their coffee to be the more favorable among the breakfast options. But take it black, as any options that stray into French vanilla or caramel will clash with the meal.

