LOSE 5 LBS Gain a Healthier Gut

Designed with just the right amount of energy and essential nutrients, this meal plan will not only satisfy but also slim you down. This two-week menu is packed with plenty of your weight-loss buddies (those gut-friendly prebiotics and probiotics) and appetizing flavors to keep you interested.

> BY TIFFANI BACHUS, RDN & ERIN MACDONALD, RDN PHOTOGRAPHY BY RACHEL KORINEK

WEEK ONE

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

 BREAKFAST: Kefir Smoothie: Blend ¾ cup kefir, ½ cup strawberries, ½ frozen banana, 1 tbsp chia seeds, 1 tbsp flaxseeds and ice as desired SNACK: PB & Strawberries: Top 1 slice toast with 1 tbsp peanut butter, 3 smashed strawberries and ½ tsp flaxseeds LUNCH: 1 serving Falafel Salad Bowls (see recipe, p. 42; save leftovers) SNACK: Turkey Pocket: Stuff 1 pita with 3 oz deli turkey and 2 tbsp kimchi (below) DINNER: Pesto Spaghetti Squash with Shrimp: (see recipe, p. 83; eat ½, save leftovers) 	BREAKFAST: 1 serving Middle Eastern Western Egg Sandwiches (see recipe, p. 40; save leftovers) SNACK: 1 serving Sweet & Spicy Nuts with Oven-Dried Edamame (see recipe, p. 44; save leftovers) LUNCH: Open-Face Tuna Melt: Top 1 slice bread with 4 oz canned tuna, 2 slices tomato and 1 slice Swiss cheese; toast SNACK: Top ½ cup cottage cheese with ½ cup blueberries, ½ tbsp flaxseeds and dash cinnamon DINNER: 1 serving Falafel Salad Bowls (leftovers, p. 42)	 BREAKFAST: Quinoa Bowl: Layer ½ cup cooked quinoa, 2 scrambled eggs, ¼ cup black beans, ¼ cup salsa and ¼ avocado, sliced SNACK: Green Smoothie: Blend 1 cup brewed green tea, 1 cup spinach, 1 frozen banana, 1 tbsp chia seeds, 1 scoop protein powder, ¼ tsp cinnamon and ice, as desired LUNCH: Pesto Spaghetti Squash with Shrimp (leftovers, p. 83) SNACK: 1 serving Sweet & Spicy Nuts with Oven-Dried Edamame (leftovers, p. 44) DINNER: 1 serving Korean Steak Tacos (see recipe, p. 46; save leftovers) Side salad: Toss together 1½ cups romaine, ¼ cup each chopped cucumber and celery, 1 tbsp lemon juice, 1 tsp EVOO and pinch each salt and pepper
NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,505, Fat: 66 g, Sat. Fat: 14 g, Carbs: 149 g, Fiber: 34 g, Sugars: 45 g, Protein: 94 g, Sodium: 1,431 mg, Cholesterol: 343 mg	NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,294, Fat: 55 g, Sat. Fat: 14 g, Carbs: 118 g, Fiber: 24 g, Sugars: 34 g, Protein: 90 g, Sodium: 2,165 mg, Cholesterol: 458 mg	NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,556, Fat: 77 g, Sat. Fat: 17 g, Carbs: 133 g, Fiber: 32 g, Sugars: 44 g, Protein: 105 g, Sodium: 1,821 mg, Cholesterol: 661 mg

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 BREAKFAST: 1 serving Middle Eastern Western Egg Sandwiches (leftovers, p. 40) SNACK: PB & Strawberries: Top 1 slice toasted bread with 1 tbsp peanut butter, 3 smashed strawberries and ½ tsp flaxseeds LUNCH: 1 serving Falafel Salad Bowls (leftovers, p. 42) SNACK: Cherry Almond Flax Smoothie: In a blender, combine 1 cup almond milk, 1 cup frozen cherries, 1 tbsp flaxseeds, 1 scoop protein powder, ¼ tsp almond extract and ice, as desired DINNER: Balsamic Chicken & Rice: Drizzle 4 oz chicken breast with 1 tsp each balsamic vinegar and EVOO then grill; ½ cup cooked brown rice 6 asparagus spears and 4 small carrots, steamed 	 BREAKFAST: Berry Flax Smoothie: Blend 1 cup almond milk, 1 cup frozen mixed berries, 1 tbsp flaxseeds, 1 scoop protein powder and ice, as desired SNACK: 1 serving Sweet & Spicy Nuts with Oven-Dried Edamame (leftovers, p. 44) LUNCH: 1 serving Korean Steak Tacos (leftovers, p. 46) SNACK: Top ½ cup cottage cheese with ½ cup blueberries, ½ tbsp flaxseeds and dash cinnamon DINNER: Spicy Turkey Bowl: In a skillet, brown 8 oz ground turkey; add ½ cup black beans, ¼ red onion, chopped, 1 cup chicken broth, ½ cup dry quinoa, ½ cup salsa, 1 tsp cumin and 1 tsp chile powder; simmer until quinoa is cooked through (eat ½, save leftovers); top with 1 tbsp fresh cilantro and 1 tbsp pepitas 	 BREAKFAST: Quinoa Bowl: Layer ½ cup cooked quinoa, 2 scrambled eggs, ¼ cup black beans, ¼ cup salsa and ¼ avocado, sliced SNACK: Green Smoothie: Blend 1 cup brewed green tea, 1 cup spinach, 1 frozen banana, 1 tbsp chia seeds, 1 scoop protein powder, ¼ tsp cinnamon and ice, as desired LUNCH: Open-Face Tuna Melt: Top 1 slice bread with 4 oz canned tuna, 2 slices tomato and 1 slice Swiss cheese; toast SNACK: PB & Strawberries: Top 1 slice toasted bread with 1 tbsp peanut butter, 3 smashed strawberries and ½ tsp flaxseeds DINNER: Lemon Chicken: Bake 8 oz chicken breast with 2 tbsp lemon juice, 2 tsp EVOO, ½ tsp garlic powder and pinch salt and pepper (eat ½, save leftovers); 6 asparagus spears and 4 small carrots, steamed 	 BREAKFAST: Quick Frittata (see recipe, p. 83; eat ¼, save leftovers) ½ sweet potato, baked SNACK: Kefir Smoothie: Blend ¾ cup kefir, ½ cup strawberries, ½ frozen banana, 1 tbsp chia seeds, 1 tbsp ground flaxseeds and ice, as desired LUNCH: Chicken Rice Bowl: Layer 2 cups spinach, ½ cup chopped tomatoes, ½ cup black beans, ⅓ cup cooked brown rice, Lemon Chicken (leftovers) and ¼ avocado, sliced SNACK: 1 serving Sweet & Spicy Nuts with Oven-Dried Edamame (leftovers, p. 44) DINNER: Spicy Turkey Bowl (leftovers); top with 1 tbsp fresh cilantro and 1 tbsp pepitas
NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,418, Fat: 50 g, Sat. Fat: 10 g, Carbs: 152.5 g, Fiber: 31 g, Sugars: 46 g, Protein: 97 g, Sodium: 1,618 mg, Cholesterol: 473 mg	NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,259, Fat: 47 g, Sat. Fat: 11 g, Carbs: 120 g, Fiber: 24 g, Sugars: 42 g, Protein: 97 g, Sodium: 1,615 mg, Cholesterol: 196 mg	NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,454, Fat: 56.5 g, Sat. Fat: 15 g, Carbs: 135 g, Fiber: 35 g, Sugars: 36 g, Protein: 117.5 g, Sodium: 1,781 mg, Cholesterol: 560 mg	NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,602, Fat: 64 g, Sat. Fat: 14 g, Carbs: 167 g Fiber: 38 g, Sugars: 44 g, Protein: 104 g, Sodium: 1,660 mg, Cholesterol: 524 mg

EVOO = extra-virgin olive oil

WEEK TWO

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	
 BREAKFAST: Berry Parfait: Mix 1 cup Greek yogurt with ½ cup chopped strawberries and ½ tbsp honey; top with 1 tbsp each flaxseeds and hempseeds SNACK: Green Smoothie: Blend 1 cup brewed green tea, 1 cup arugula, 1 frozen banana, 1 tbsp chia seeds, 1 scoop protein powder, ¼ tsp cinnamon and ice, as desired LUNCH: 1 serving Quick Frittata (leftovers, p. 83) Greek Salad: Combine 2 cups spring lettuce mix, ½ cucumber, sliced, ¼ cup canned chickpeas, ¼ cup halved grape tomatoes, 2 tbsp red onion and 1 oz feta; top with ½ tbsp lemon juice whisked with ½ tbsp EVOO SNACK: 1 carrot, sliced, ½ cucumber, sliced, and 6 grape tomatoes with 3 tbsp hummus DINNER: 1 serving Chilled Green Goddess 	 BREAKFAST: 1 serving Quick Frittata (leftovers, p. 83) ½ sweet potato, baked SNACK: PB & Strawberries: Top 1 slice toasted bread with 1 tbsp peanut butter, 3 strawberries, sliced, and ½ tsp hempseeds LUNCH: 1 serving Chilled Green Goddess Soup with Open-Face Shrimp Lettuce Cups (leftovers, p. 44) SNACK: Turkey Pocket: Stuff 1 pita pocket pita with 3 oz deli turkey and 2 tbsp kimchi DINNER: 1 serving Balsamie Glazed Chicken with Roasted Fennel, Carrots & Parsnips (see recipe, p. 46; save leftovers) 	 BREAKFAST: Banana Peanut Butter Smoothie: In a blender, combine 1 cup almond milk, ½ frozen banana, 1 tbsp peanut butter, 1 tbsp chia seeds, 1 scoop protein powder and ice, as desired SNACK: ½ cup cottage cheese topped with 1 small apple, shredded, and 2 tsp honey LUNCH: Cheesy Portobello Mushroom (see recipe, p. 83) ½ cup cooked quinoa pasta; top with 3 tbsp marinara and 1 tbsp Parmesan 3 oz cod, seasoned with garlic powder and dried oregano; sauté in 2 tsp EVOO and 1 tsp lemon juice SNACK: 1 serving Sweet & Spicy Nuts with Oven-Dried Edamame (leftovers, p. 44) DINNER: Rosemary Pork Chops with Apple (see recipe, p. 83; eat ½, save leftovers) Arugula Salad: 1 cup arugula and 1 chopped shallot; top with ½ tsp. 	
<i>Soup with Open-Face Shrimp Lettuce Cups</i> (see recipe, p. 44; save leftovers)	⅓ cup cooked quinoa	top with ½ tbsp rice vinegar whisked with ½ tsp sesame oil	
NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,576, Fat: 69 g, Sat. Fat: 21 g, Carbs: 148 g, Fiber 33 g, Sugars: 71 g, Protein: 110 g, Sodium: 1,754 mg, Cholesterol: 617 mg	NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,541, Fat: 59.5 g, Sat. Fat: 17 g, Carbs: 142 g, Fiber: 29 g, Sugars: 49 g, Protein: 112.5 g, Sodium: 1,927 mg, Cholesterol: 718 mg	NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,554, Fat: 75 g, Sat. Fat: 24 g, Carbs: 137 g, Fiber: 24 g, Sugars: 67.5 g, Protein: 100.5 g, Sodium: 1,809 mg, Cholesterol: 172 mg	
THURSDAY F	RIDAY SA	TURDAY SUNDAY	

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 BREAKFAST: 2 Buckwheat Pancakes (see recipe, p. 83); top with 1 tbsp peanut butter and ½ banana, sliced; 2 slices turkey bacon, cooked SNACK: Strawberry Chia Parfait: Mix 1 cup Greek yogurt with ½ cup chopped strawberries and ½ tbsp honey; top with ½ tbsp chia seeds LUNCH: Rosemary Pork Chops with Apple (leftovers, p. 83) Arugula Salad: 1 cup arugula and 1 chopped shallot; top with ½ tbsp rice vinegar whisked with ½ tsp sesame oil SNACK: 1 carrot, sliced, ½ green bell pepper, sliced, with 2 tbsp hummus DINNER: 1 serving Balsamic Glazed Chicken with Roasted Fennel, Carrots & Parsnips (leftovers, p. 46) ½ cup cooked quinoa 	 BREAKFAST: Berry Parfait: Mix 1 cup Greek yogurt with ½ cup chopped strawberries and ½ tbsp honey; top with 1 tbsp each flaxseeds and hempseed SNACK: 1 serving Sweet & Spicy Nuts with Oven-Dried Edamame (leftovers, p. 44) LUNCH: 1 serving Balsamic Glazed Chicken with Roasted Fennel, Carrots & Parsnips (leftovers, p. 46) ½ cup cooked quinoa SNACK: Turkey Pocket: Stuff 1 pita with 3 oz deli turkey and 2 tbsp kimchi DINNER: Greek Tuna Salad: Combine 2 cups spring lettuce mix, ½ cucumber, sliced, ¼ cup canned chickpeas, ¼ cup halved grape tomatoes, 2 tbsp red onion and 1 oz feta; top with ½ tbsp lemon juice mixed with ½ tbsp EVOO and 3 oz seared and sliced ahi tuna 	 BREAKFAST: 2 Buckwheat Pancakes (leftovers) with 1 tbsp peanut butter and ½ banana, sliced; 2 slices turkey bacon, cooked SNACK: PB & Strawberries: Top 1 slice toast with 1 tbsp peanut butter, 3 strawberries, sliced, and ½ tsp hempseeds LUNCH: Zucchini Noodles: Spiralize 1 cup zucchini noodles. Sauté in 2 tsp EVOO with 4 oz ground turkey and ¼ cup marinara sauce SNACK: Turkey Pita: Stuff 1 pita with 2 tbsp hummus, ½ cucumber, sliced, 1 carrot, shredded, and 2 oz deli turkey DINNER: Fish Tacos: Season 8 oz mahi mahi with zest and juice of 1 lime and ½ tsp cumin; grill Tropical Slaw: Mix 2 cups shredded cabbage, ¼ cup yellow onion, ⅓ cup red bell pepper, 4 oz pineapple tidbits and 2 tbsp rice vinegar (eat ½ fish and slaw in 2 tortillas; save leftovers) 	 BREAKFAST: 2 Buckwheat Pancakes (leftovers, p. 83); top with 1 tbsp peanut butter and ½ banana, sliced; 2 slices turkey bacon, cooked SNACK: Pineapple Parfait: Mix 1 cup Greek yogurt with ½ tbsp honey; top with 4 oz pineapple tidbits, drained LUNCH: Fish Tacos and Tropical Slaw (leftovers); serve in 2 corn tortillas SNACK: 1 serving Sweet & Spicy Nuts with Oven-Dried Edamame (leftovers, p. 44) DINNER: Turkey Burger: Form 4 oz ground turkey into a patty; cook and serve on a bun with 1 slice yellow onion, ¼ cup arugula, 2 tbsp kimchi and 1 tbsp Dijon 1 cup strawberries
NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,451, Fat: 63 g, Sat. Fat: 23 g, Carbs: 142 g, Fiber: 26 g, Sugars: 67 g, Protein: 92 g, Sodium: 1,785 mg, Cholesterol: 239 mg	NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,471, Fat: 59 g, Sat. Fat: 16 g, Carbs: 129 g, Fiber: 23 g, Sugars: 52 g, Protein: 112.5 g, Sodium: 1,446 mg, Cholesterol: 264 mg	NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,490, Fat: 52 g, Sat. Fat: 10.5 g, Carbs: 158 g, Fiber: 29 g, Sugars: 56 g, Protein: 107 g, Sodium: 1,745 mg, Cholesterol: 284 mg	NUTRIENTS: Calories: 1,472, Fat: 48 g, Sat. Fat: 13 g, Carbs: 161 g, Fiber: 26 g, Sugars: 61 g, Protein: 111 g, Sodium: 1,713 mg, Cholesterol: 287 mg

EVOO = extra-virgin olive oil

RECIPES

Rosemary Pork Chops with Apple

Cook 2 pork chops in 2 tsp coconut oil with 1 tbsp dried rosemary, crushed. Transfer to a plate. Add 1 tsp coconut oil to pan and 1 apple, sliced; sauté 5 minutes, until soft. Stir in ½ tsp grated ginger.

Cheesy Portobello Mushroom

Remove stem and gills from 1 portobello mushroom. Fill cavity with 3 tbsp marinara sauce and 1 slice mozzarella. Bake at 400°F for 15 minutes.

Quick Frittata

Heat oven to 350°F. Whisk 8 eggs, ½ cup milk, 1 cup halved grape tomatoes, ½ cup sliced basil, 3 tbsp grated Parmesan and ¼ tsp pepper. Pour into a 9-inch pie plate misted with cooking spray. Bake for 25 minutes. Cut into 4 pieces.

Pesto Spaghetti Squash with

Shrimp In a food processor, purée 2 cups fresh basil, zest and juice of 1 lemon, 2 tbsp each grated Parmesan and EVOO and 1 clove garlic; pour over 2 cups cooked spaghetti squash, with 1 cup roasted halved grape tomatoes and 8 oz grilled shrimp.

Buckwheat Pancakes

Combine 1 cup buckwheat flour, 2 tsp baking powder and ¼ tsp salt. Add 1 egg, 1 banana, mashed, ¾ cup milk and 1 tsp vanilla; mix well. Heat 2 tsp coconut oil on a griddle. Add ¼ cup batter per pancake (for 8 pancakes total) and cook for 2 to 3 minutes per side, until golden brown.



Rachel Korinek

PHOTOGRAPHER, COACH AND EDUCATOR, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

"Bright and airy imagery is my favorite kind of theme to shoot," says "Lose 5 Lbs Gain a Healthier Gut" photographer Rachel Korinek. "It's like a breath of crisp, fresh air that falls upon us ever so calmly. I think there is a lot to be said about real food (and really good food) that marries with this feeling for me," she says. Korinek's work has been featured in online and print publications, marketing campaigns and artwork while she also produces a podcast called The Mindful Creative.

RECIPES | meal pla

SHOPPING LISTS

WEEK ONE

PROTEINS & DAIRY

- 1 32-oz bottle plain whole-milk kefir
- 1/2 qt milk (dairy or unsweetened non-dairy milk)
- 1 qt unsweetened vanilla-almond milk
- 1 4-oz container plain whole-milk Greek or Icelandic yogurt
- 112-oz container plain whole-milk yogurt
- 112-oz container cottage cheese
- 18-oz container shredded Parmesan cheese
- 2 slices Swiss cheese
- 8 oz small wild shrimp
- 2 dozen large eggs
- 2 4-oz BPA-free cans wild albacore tuna
- 3 oz sliced deli turkey breast
- 8 oz 93% lean ground turkey
- 1 lb beef flank steak
- 12 oz boneless, skinless chicken breast

VEGGIES & FRUITS

- 1 bag frozen mixed berry blend
- 1 bag frozen cherries
- 1 bag frozen shelled edamame
- 1/2 pint blueberries
- 2 pints strawberries
- 3 bananas (freeze all)
- 5 lemons
- 3 limes

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- 2 bunches fresh basil
- 2 bunches fresh parsley

- 1 bunch fresh cilantro
- 1 bunch fresh chives
- 1 head garlic
- 2 avocados
- 1 head celery
- 2 cucumbers
- 2 lb small carrots
- 2 heads romaine lettuce
- 6 oz fresh baby spinach
- 1 head red cabbage
- 1 red onion
- 2 small yellow onions
- 4 shallots

- 2 green onions
- 1 bunch asparagus
- 1 bunch radishes
- 1 red bell pepper
- 1 green bell pepper
- 1 spaghetti squash
- 1 sweet potato
- 1 pint grape tomatoes
- 1 vine tomato

WHOLE GRAINS

- 1 loaf sprouted wholegrain bread (TRY: Food for Life Ezekiel 4:9 Sprouted Whole Grain Bread)
- 1 pkg 6-inch whole-grain pita pockets
- 1 box quinoa (**TRY:** Ancient Harvest Traditional Quinoa)
- 1 box brown rice
- 1 pkg 4-inch corn tortillas
- 1 bag whole spelt flour

NUTS, SEEDS & OILS

- 1 container chia seeds
- 1 container ground flaxseeds
- 1 jar natural unsalted peanut butter
- 2 oz raw unsalted pecans
 2½ oz raw unsalted
- 2½ oz raw unsalted almonds
- 3 oz raw unsalted cashews
- 1 oz unsalted pepitas (pumpkin seeds)
- 1 bottle extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 bottle olive oil
- 1 bottle sesame oil
- 1 bottle olive oil cooking spray

EXTRAS

1 bottle red wine vinegar

3 oz ahi tuna steak

3 oz cod fillet

VEGGIES & FRUITS

2 small apples

1 navel orange

1 avocado

3 parsnips

2 cucumbers

5 oz arugula

romaine lettuce

1 bunch fresh dill

1 bunch fresh chives

1 bunch fresh tarragon

1 pint grape tomatoes

tidbits in 100% juice

1 bag buckwheat flour

1 whole-grain bun

NUTS, SEEDS & OILS

1 small bag raw

1 jar coconut oil

shelled hempseed

18-oz container hummus

115-oz BPA-free can

unsalted chickpeas

1 jar all-natural

marinara sauce

baking powder

1 bottle pure

vanilla extract

1 bottle white

wine vinegar

1 bottle raw honey

1 bottle dried marjoram

1 bottle dried oregano

1 bottle dried rosemary @

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1 bottle dried thyme

1 container

1 box quinoa penne pasta

WHOLE GRAINS

2 4-oz cartons pineapple

1 large zucchini

1 pint strawberries

4 bananas (freeze 11/2)

1 large red bell pepper

1 fennel bulb with stalk

1 portobello mushroom

1 head Bibb, Boston or

6 oz spring lettuce mix

1 1-inch piece fresh ginger

8 oz mahi mahi

EXTRAS

- 1 box green tea bags or
- loose leaf1 jar tahini paste
- 1 bottle reduced-sodium soy sauce or tamari
- 1 32-oz container lowsodium chicken broth
- 1 bottle grainy
 Dijon mustard
- 1 jar kimchi
- 1 bottle sriracha sauce
- 1 bottle pure maple syrup
- 1 bag coconut sugar
- 115-oz BPA-free can unsalted black beans
- 7 oz dry chickpeas
- 1 jar all-natural salsa
- 1 bottle ground cinnamon
- 1 bottle ground cumin
- 1 bottle ground coriander
- 1 bottle chile powder1 bottle ground cayenne pepper
- 1 bottle garlic powder
- 1 bottle sea salt
- 1 bottle ground black pepper
- 1 bottle almond extract
- 1 container vanilla whey protein powder
- 1 bottle rice vinegar
- 1 bottle balsamic vinegar
- 1 bottle smoked paprika, optional
- 1 bottle all-natural hot sauce, optional

WEEK TWO

PROTEINS & DAIRY

132-oz container plain

1 oz mozzarella cheese

6 oz small wild shrimp

8 2-oz boneless, skinless

whole-milk Greek or

Icelandic yogurt

2 oz feta cheese

8 oz sliced deli

turkey breast

8 oz 93% lean

ground turkey

1 pkg organic

turkey bacon

chicken thighs

2 4-oz boneless pork chops