# **Honey Pepper Chicken Mac and Cheese**

### Ingredients

- 1 12 oz box spiral noodles
- 1 25 oz. bag breaded chicken strips (or number of chicken strips each person wants)
- 5 slices bacon cooked and crumbled
- Salt and Pepper
- Basil

### Honey Pepper Sauce:

- 3/4 cup honey
- 3 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup pineapple juice
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 1 Tbsp vinegar
- 1 tsp black pepper
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- Dash of paprika

#### Cheese Sauce:

- 1 stick butter
- 2-3 cloves minced garlic
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1/2 cup shredded parmesan cheese
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese, freshly shredded
- 3/4 cup colby jack cheese, freshly shredded



## **Instructions**

- 1. Bake or deep fry chicken strips according to package directions (you can also make your own), set aside.
- 2. Cook pasta according to package directions.
- 3. Meanwhile in a medium saucepan mix all your Honey Pepper sauce ingredients and bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for about 15 minutes, stirring often to remove heat and let cool slightly to thicken.
- 4. To make your cheese sauce, melt your butter and garlic together in a large pan. Once the garlic has started to turn golden brown, then stir in the cream
- 5. Once melted add in your cheese one at a time, stirring after each addition then and garlic and stir until incorporated and everything is melted.
- 6. Add salt and pepper to taste.
- 7. Add pasta to pan with sauce and stir to combine, add in your bacon and stir until incorporated.
- 8. Dip each of your chicken strips into the honey pepper sauce until coated and set aside.
- 9. When ready to serve, dish up your pasta and top with chicken strips and sprinkle with basil and additional bacon if desired.