

NEWS FROM FREELAND NUTRITION SERVICES

MEAL PRICES FOR 2016-2017

As part of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, school districts participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs are required to raise the average price of a paid lunch to a level equal to the federal reimbursement rate for free and reduced price meals. Schools have several years to comply with the new requirement and must review meal prices annually in the spring. This year's review results in an increase for our district.

Learning Center/Elementary School: \$1.25 for Breakfast; \$2.00 Lunch

Middle School/High School: \$1.40 Breakfast; Tiered pricing for lunch - \$2.50/\$2.75/\$3.00

Reduced price meals are the same at all sites: \$0.30 for breakfast; \$0.40 Lunch

Adult staff and visitors: \$2.00 Breakfast; \$3.75 Lunch

Milk a la carte: \$0.60

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL MEALS

Learning Center/Elementary: Families are encouraged to pay at least weekly for their students' meals. Cash or checks made out to Freeland Community Schools shall be sent with students on Mondays. If you forget on Monday, you still may send in on the next day. These deposits may take up to 2 days to be reflected in Meal Magic.

Middle/High Schools: Students shall bring money to deposit in the cafeteria either during breakfast or their lunch period. Parents may also mail checks to Freeland High School, Nutrition Services Dept., 8250 Webster Rd, Freeland, MI 48623.

Payments may also be accepted online at www.sendmoneytoschool.com. A minimum service fee is added per transaction no matter the amount.

SCHOOL MEAL CHARGING POLICY

Payment for school meals is expected at the time of purchase. Parents or guardians are encouraged to monitor their child's meal account balance online and keep an adequate amount of funds in the child's account. To request online access to view your student's school meal account, go to the website at www.sendmoneytoschool.com. Registration will require the student's ID number. This may be found in Skyward. You may also request it from an office secretary or Nutrition Service's Director. It is the parent's or guardian's responsibility to pay for or pack a child's lunch when sending them to school. The Nutrition Services Department recognizes there might be occasions when a parent or guardian forgets to do so. Although we strongly discourage the practice, as a courtesy to families; the following charge policy is in place:

Learning Center and Elementary School Students:

- Charging limit: \$15.00.

Middle School and High School Students:

- Maximum charging limit: \$12.00.

An emergency entree' will be made available once the limit is reached. The emergency entree' consists of peanut butter on whole grain bread. There is no emergency meal provided for breakfast. A la carte items, including milk, cannot be charged when student owes more than \$5.00.

No charging allowed two (2) weeks prior to the end of each school year. All meal charges must be paid off by the last day of the current school year. Any unpaid charges will be carried forward to the next school year and count toward the student's ability to charge. Money remaining in a student's account will be carried forward to the next school year.

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE BREAKFAST & LUNCH APPLICATIONS

The Free and Reduced Meal Program is available for families experiencing financial difficulties. Paper applications are available at your student's school or printed **online at www.freelandnutritionservices.com**. You only need to complete one application for your entire family. Make sure all of your students are listed on the application along with their grade and the school they will attend. Completed paper applications may be returned to the school office, the lunchroom cashier or mailed directly to the Freeland Nutrition Services Office at 8250 Webster Rd., Freeland, MI 48423. **Please make sure the application is complete. Applications missing information or not signed will be returned thereby delaying benefits.** Your application will be processed within 2 weeks of the time the application is received in the Nutrition Services Office. You may choose to file an application online at www.lunchapp.com. These are usually processed quicker. Once your application has been processed, you will receive a letter letting you know if your application is approved free, reduced price or denied with the reason for denial.

Unless your child was free or reduced in this district last year, please make sure you send money or a sack lunch to school until you receive notice of approval. Students are expected to pay full price until the application has been processed and you have been notified.

If your child received free or reduced price meal benefits at the end of last school year **in this district**, those benefits will continue for the first few weeks of the new school year. **However, a new application must be submitted and approved by Friday, October 17, 2016 or your student's benefits will be TERMINATED.**

COMMUNICATION OF NEGATIVE BALANCES

To avoid unpaid charges, parents or guardians are encouraged to monitor the accounts online or by email request to coffeyj@freelandschools.net. The direct phone number to call is (989) 625-2297. Schools recognize the importance of eating a healthy meal while at school, and have worked with their cafeteria personnel on a plan to remind parents when charges are near their limit. Nutrition Services Director or school lunch cashier may provide any of the following reminders in an effort to help the student continue to receive school meals:

- Student receives a verbal reminder or balance note to take home
- Parent or guardian receives an email, phone call or letter in the mail. Please ensure that our department has current email addresses and phone numbers on file.