

## Stillwater Area Schools Food Service News for parents of secondary school students (FAQ's)

### *Important information regarding your child's meals at school:*

- There is a NO CHARGING policy at the Secondary school level. Students **MUST** have enough money in their account to make their purchases.
- If you haven't tried it yet, you can pay on-line with your credit card. Pay NO FEES! It's a GREAT service for parents! (Go to [www.PayPams.com](http://www.PayPams.com)) **WE ENCOURAGE PARENTS to take advantage of this FREE SERVICE.** YOU can GUARANTEE your child will have money to eat every day.
- Menus are also on-line at [www.stillwater.k12.mn.us](http://www.stillwater.k12.mn.us). Click on "Lunch Menus".
- **NEW breakfast menus will be introduced in October!** (Check your school for times served.)

### *If my child has no money in his (her) account, but does have cash, will that be accepted at the register?*

- Again, the system is a PRE-PAID system and to allow students plenty of time to enjoy their lunch and socialization, we want to do what we can to move students through the lunch line quickly, our policy is to not accept cash at the registers. (We do make exceptions during the first month of school, but will strongly encourage students to place that money in an envelope and place it in the drop box so that it can be placed into their account.)
- Please PRE-PAY using one of the payment options listed below. (PayPams, a check, or cash.)

### *How will I know when my child needs money?*

- To take the worry away from your child and make sure there is money in their meal account, you can monitor your child's (ren's) balances online at [www.PayPams.com](http://www.PayPams.com), AND receive email notification when your child's account balance is getting low!
- Students may ask for their balance at anytime after they enter their PIN number at the register.
- When your child enters their PIN #, if their account balance reaches the equivalent of two lunches, the computer says, "low balance". The cashiers will also do their best to let students know when they get down to \$5.00 or less. Please understand that students move through our lines quickly and often don't stop to hear when we tell them their balance is low.

### *Aren't school lunches unhealthy and nasty?*

- Absolutely not! There are at least 9 different delicious entrée choices offered daily in the school cafeteria. They include all the necessary foods to build a nutritious lunch. (whole grain foods, fresh and canned fruits, fresh and cooked vegetables, bread, and a variety of milk choices.)
- Nutrition information is available on the district website, [www.stillwater.k12.mn.us](http://www.stillwater.k12.mn.us), click on lunch menus and then on Nutrition Information.

### *What if my teenager is still hungry?*

- If your teenager purchases a school lunch (main entrée, vegetable, fruit, bread and milk) and is still hungry we encourage them to come back to get additional fruits or vegetables at no charge. (Students that do not purchase lunch are not allowed to help themselves to these foods.)
- Students can purchase a 2<sup>nd</sup> lunch, but will be charged \$3.30. Federal regulations allow us to claim only one per student per day. The additional purchased meal is one we do not receive funding for and therefore must be at a higher price.

### *My child receives free or reduced price meals, what do I need to know?*

- The identity of student's eligible for free or reduced price meals remains anonymous in the school food service area. Your child uses a PIN number and can choose from any of the full meal choices available with all the side dishes. To purchase Ala Carte foods, your child will need to have money in their account.

*What if my child brings lunch from home?*

- The program only allows the benefit for a "meal only". If your child brings lunch from home and wants to have milk, they **MUST** have money in their account to cover the cost of the milk.

*How can I receive other benefits from the school?*

- The food service department sent you a letter informing you of your eligibility for either free or reduced price meals. You can take that letter to the Principal, athletic department, transportation department, or any other school department that you want to request other possible benefits from. If you have misplaced your letter, you can contact Bonnie at 651-351-8326 for another one.

***I still have more questions...*** Please call Bonnie at 651-351-8326, Amie at 651-351-8327, Linda at 651-351-8324, or email [foodservice@stillwater.k12.mn.us](mailto:foodservice@stillwater.k12.mn.us)

**2010-2011 Meal prices: (Subject to change)**

Meal	Secondary	Second meal*	Students approved for free or reduced price meals:
Breakfast	\$1.40	\$1.90	No charge for students approved for free or reduced price meals.
Lunch	\$2.50	\$3.30	Approved for free-no charge. Approved for Reduced price – \$.40
Milk**	\$.45	\$.45	\$.45

\*The first lunch charged to a students meal account is at the Secondary price. Students choosing to purchase an additional lunch will pay the "second meal" price. Federal regulations allow us to claim only one per student per day. The additional purchased meal is one we do not receive funding for and therefore must be at a higher price.

\*\*One milk (8oz.) is included in the price of all meals. This price is for additional milk purchased with a meal or milk purchased separately.

**PAYMENT OPTION:**

**Pay on-line: PAY NO FEES!** Make payments to your child's meal account via the internet. Payments can be made by going to [www.PayPams.com](http://www.PayPams.com) and setting up your account. You will need to have your credit card information, and your child's pin number or student ID (email [foodservice@stillwater.k12.mn.us](mailto:foodservice@stillwater.k12.mn.us) if you need assistance.) **Parents using this service LOVE it!**

**Other features available on-line at no charge include:**

- Receive e-mail notification on balance status
- Access account balance and account history online
- Register multiple students under one account
- Receive e-mail confirmation for online payments
- Schedule automatic payments based on meal account balance

**Pay at school:** Payments by cash or check (Payable to "Stillwater Area Schools") are also being taken at the school your child attends. Please place the check or cash in an envelope and label it with child's name, grade, PIN number, and amount enclosed on the outside of the envelope. Place the envelope in the designated food service drop box located within your child's school.

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