

August 22, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The cost of lunches for the 2022/2023 school year will remain at \$3.00 per lunch/\$60 per lunch card (good for 20 lunches). We encourage you to purchase a card. Per New York State guidelines, lunch cards cannot be shared by siblings.

The cost of milk will remain the same at \$.50. We encourage you to purchase prepaid lunch & milk cards in order to limit cash transactions. A milk card is \$10 (good for 20 milk punches).

A check or cash may be given to your child's teacher in a sealed envelope indicating the child's name and grade. We will issue a lunch/milk card for your child(ren), punch it with each lunch/milk taken and when the card is nearly depleted, we will send home a reminder envelope with your child. **Please do not include other payments with the lunch card payment.**

As per NYS guidelines, charging lunches is not encouraged. As per New York State Law 908, SNEP has on record a Prohibition Against Meal Shaming plan. Under no circumstances will any student be embarrassed should they have to charge a lunch, nor will this be publicized in any way. When a student's account balance is exhausted and unpaid meal charges are due, parents will be notified directly and discreetly. If a student, for whatever reason, does not have a lunch, a meal will be provided to them.

We are mandated by the Federal School Lunch Program to send everyone a letter and an application for the Free/Reduced Lunch Program, which is included with this packet. It is also available on our website under the Student Life tab, Parents, School Lunch Program. Feel free to apply at any time during the year if family situations change. This program impacts the school's budget in that we receive additional federal funds for eligible families toward the expenses of the lunch program. Additionally, Title I funds are based on eligible Free/Reduced Lunch participants. **Please refer to the income guidelines within the application and only apply if income eligible.**

Because we have adopted the prepaid card system, the children who qualify for free/reduced lunches have total anonymity. No one is aware that a student receives this service. Continuing this year, students in NYS who are approved for reduced price meals will receive lunch meals at no charge.

If you have any questions, please contact Jo Merino, Director of Finance, at 716-754-4311 ext 131.

Sincerely,

Sr. Margaret Sullivan  
Principal