

ATTENTION PARENTS AND GUARDIANS:

DO YOU NEED AN ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS?

The Colonial School District Nutrition Staff welcomes both you and your family to a new school year. If you are new to the district or have any comments, questions, or suggestions, we invite you to call and/or stop by the Cafeteria Office in your child's school. This office is open daily from 7:00am to 1:30pm. Please see the Nutrition Services web page for a listing of Nutrition Services Phone Numbers to contact your child's school cafeteria. Our goal is to make your child's dining experience a positive part of each day!

Where can I get help completing the meal benefit form?

Call the Nutrition Services Office at 302-323-2743

How much money can I deposit in my child's account?

You may deposit any amount you wish. Keep in mind, for every 10 lunch meals purchased you get a meal free so you may want to stick with 10 meal increments. Send a note to notify your manager if you prefer that your child not be allowed to buy snacks, or double meals with the money in the account. Students receive a notice to take home once a week if they owe money. If you would like to see your child's spending history or current balance, you can create a free online account with MyNutrikids.com or you can call you child's school Cafeteria Manager. When the funds are low, the cashier discreetly reminds students that they need money on their account.

Is it true that I can prepay for school meals with a credit card?

Yes, you can now prepay for your child's meals with a credit or debit card any time of the day! To do this, you must set up an online account with MyNutrikids.com. MyNutrikids.com allows you to view your child's account balance and purchase history for free and offers an online payment option with a \$1.75 convenience fee. The school district does not profit from this fee. As an incentive to use this prepayment method, we offer a free meal for every 10 purchased to compensate you for the majority of this fee. For more information on MyNutrikids.com or to access detailed instructions for setting up the online account, please see the information page on our department web page, or you may call the Nutrition Services Office (302)323-2743.

Who do I write a check to for payment of my children's meals?

Please make checks payable your child's school cafeteria. (Example: Colwyck Elementary Cafeteria) Helpful Reminder: Please write your child's full name and student ID number on your check. If you have two or more children in the same school, you may write one (1) check; however you must note how much money should be allocated to each child.

What happens if my check bounces?

When the check is returned to the Nutrition Services Office, a secretary will remove any funds available to cover all or part of the amount of the check. You will receive a letter by mail to notify you of the bounced check and the balance due. Nutrition Services will not accept a check from the parent(s)/guardian for one year from the date that the obligation is paid. After 30 days if the obligation has not been met, the student will receive a peanut butter and jelly, toasted cheese, or cheese sandwich platter until the debt is paid.

Why give so many choices of foods to eat?

Our student customers are just like adults. We all buy through our eyes. When we see the bright colors of the fresh fruits it catches our attention and we think about how good it will taste. The same is true with our fresh fruit. We set out a selection of fresh fruits like apples, oranges, pears, plums, and bananas. The customer makes the choice because it is the one he or she likes. Let's not forget the Fruit of the Day! We also have a variety of freshly made salads, wraps & sandwiches to entice a child's appetite.

What about this "keypad" number I hear about?

Each student is assigned an identification number that is entered on the keypad to access his or her personal school meal account. All students will use their state identification number. Cards containing the state ID number will be distributed at the beginning of each school year to assist the students. In the case that this card is lost, students may ask the cafeteria cashier for their number. It is advised that all students memorize this number.

Will you let my child charge a lunch?

In order to maintain our very low prices, limited charging of breakfast and lunch is permitted. We do not deny our K-5 students a meal, but when the student has a \$5.00 debt, they will only receive a peanut butter and jelly, grilled cheese, or cheese sandwich platter.

For the 6-12th grade students, (1) Breakfast and (1) Lunch may be charged. The following day the student must bring in money or they will not be served a meal.

For grades K-12, a-la-carte purchases will not be allowed until charges are paid. There will be no charging of any meals during the last few weeks of school.

Every year I have to complete a new meal benefit form. Why? I didn't have to pay last year.

A new form for meals must be completed each year. This is a Federal law and the Child Nutrition Program operates as a Federal program. The cut-off date for turning in an application at the beginning of the year is October 1st. However, a parent may apply or reapply at any time during the school year should there be a change in family size and/or income.

Remember:

Don't forget to check out the monthly menus for Meal Prices, Daily Selections, or the Sandwich of the Day. You can also visit us on the web and view menus, nutrition analysis of all food served, forms, policies, prepayment information, resources for families with children who have food allergies and helpful nutrition and fitness links.

(<http://www.colonial.k12.de.us/lunchmenusnutrition.shtml>).

Colonial School District Nutrition Services Department

**Providing Healthy Choices to Fuel Great Minds for
Improved Academic Achievement!**