

Dear Parent or Guardian,

August 2020

We would like to welcome you and your student to the 2020-2021 school year! Aramark Education is proud to continue our partnership with Penn-Trafford School District with many new menu items, promotions, and exciting events planned for this upcoming year. If you've never eaten with us before, now is the best time to explore how fresh, exciting, and cost-effective the Penn-Trafford food service program can be! Here is how student dining at Penn-Trafford will work for this upcoming year:

Breakfast: Don't forget about breakfast! Many students eat before coming to school, but find that they're still hungry before lunch. Our breakfast program is your solution! The breakfast menu features an assortment of cereal, muffins, breakfast bars, breakfast sandwiches, fresh fruit, 100% juice and milk. Breakfast is served in the cafeteria prior to the start of school. Breakfast this year will be priced at \$1.30 (\$.30 for reduced) for Elementary and Middle Schools, and by individual items at the High School.

Lunch: To make a "reimbursable lunch" at the Elementary and Middle Schools, each student can choose up to one entrée, a fresh fruit, a fresh vegetable, AND a milk! Our lunch prices for this year are as follows:

- Elementary students pay \$2.25 for a regularly-priced meal, \$2.60 for a premium meal, and \$.40 for a reduced-priced meal.
- Middle School students pay \$2.95 for all products: premium or otherwise! Reduced-priced meals are \$.40 at the Middle School level as well.
- At the High School, all items are priced individually with the exception of the \$3.50 Main Course Feature Meal. All Free/Reduced-Eligible Students at the High School are provided with one free \$3.50 Main Course feature meal from **only** the Main Course line each day.

The process for purchasing meals from Penn-Trafford's Food Service program is as follows:

- The first step in this process is making sure that your student knows his or her PIN, which will follow your child throughout his or her time in the district. Every student has been issued an ID number; if you are unsure of your child's ID number, please call the food service office at 724-744-4471 ext.1752 or email us at pthscafe@penntrafford.org.
- Breakfast is served in the cafeteria prior to the start of school and students may proceed directly to the cafeteria in the morning before class to participate in the breakfast program!
- During breakfast & lunch, each student will be required to pass through the cash register and enter his or her PIN, regardless of meal benefit status.
- Our food service program will make every effort to accommodate your child's dietary restrictions, allergies, and food preferences. If you would prefer that your child not consume a particular menu item, please contact the food service office so we can update your preferences in our system. This will create a message on your child's account that will notify the cashier at the time of purchase of any necessary accommodation.

How Much Money Is On My Student's Account? Check online for free anytime at k12paymentcenter.com!

How Do I Deposit Money Into My Student's Account? You can pay online anytime at k12paymentcenter.com! If you're looking to avoid the processing fee from the website, you can always send cash or check (made out to PTSD Food Service) to school with your student in the morning to give to the main office or the cashier at checkout.

Negative Balances: We encourage parents to make every effort to prevent their child's balance from going into arrears. The easiest way to keep up with their account balance is to set up free balance reminders on k12paymentcenter.com. In the event that your child does have a negative balance, you will receive regular



notifications from the district and could receive repercussions including but not limited to a request for collections.

Birthday Treats: You can purchase a treat for your child and their classroom through the food service department! Fill out the 20-21 Party Snacks form found on the Food Service webpage and submit the form with your payment to the nurse at your school. We'll take care of it from there!

Free or Reduced Meal Benefits: There are several very important items to remember about applying for Free or Reduced Meal Benefits for the upcoming year:

- Each year, all families must **re-apply** for these benefits to continue for the 2020-2021 school year. There is a grace period that allows your child to eat on last year's benefits that ends in **the first week of October** so be sure to get in your new application as soon as possible! If you qualify for other PA State benefits, you can apply on the PA Compass website. Otherwise, submit a paper application directly to the business office or the main office at your school building. You can find this year's applications posted on the Food Service page on the district website.
- If you have a student in the High School, there is a separate form for the High School free meals application. If you have children in both an Elementary/Middle school AND the High School, this means that you will need to fill out **two** applications for this year. Make sure all members of your household are listed in **both** applications!
- **Don't forget:** if your Elementary or Middle School student qualifies for Free or Reduced Benefits, you're eligible for **both** a breakfast and lunch meal each day! We keep our checkout process completely discrete so your student's eligibility status is never disclosed to other students. We have so many families that qualify for benefits but don't take full advantage of this amazing program!

We are so excited for the start of the school year and to continue our partnership with the district to create a fun and engaging student experience around food while meeting the quality and nutritional needs of your child. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please feel free to contact the Food Service Office at 724-744-4471 ext.1752 or at pthsafe@penntrafford.org.

We're looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Meghan Cusack

Food Service Director

Aramark @ Penn-Trafford School District