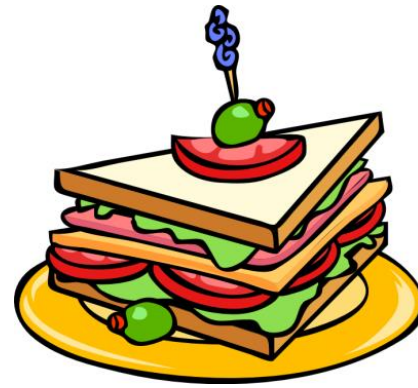


# GM FOOD SERVICE NEWS



Hello Parents. My name is Nicole Keller and I am the Food Service Coordinator (FSC) for the General McLane School District.

This Parent Packet is to provide Food Service information to you. Although the format is the same as last year, please make sure to read through it as some things have changed or will change in the upcoming school year.

If you have further questions after reading this, please do not hesitate to call me at x2618 or email me at [nicolekeller@generalmclane.org](mailto:nicolekeller@generalmclane.org)

I am in my office from August 10<sup>th</sup>-June 16<sup>th</sup>. After that you can reach me by email.

# 2017-18 NEW LUNCH AND MILK PRICES

BREAKFAST: \$1.75

LUNCH (ELEM): \$2.40

LUNCH (MS/HS): \$2.50

MILK: \$0.55

GM is below federal guidelines for pricing which requires us to raise lunch prices by \$0.10/yr to close this gap.

\*FOR CHANGES IN A LA CARTE PRICING, PLEASE CONTACT THE FSC.

## IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR SY 17-18

- **We will be purchasing new Point of Sale systems for SY 17-18. We will no longer have biometrics (fingerprints) in the district to purchase meals. ALL students will use a 4-digit Lunch ID to purchase meals**
- The Food Service Department was awarded grants through the Smarter Lunchroom Program. This will allow us get panini presses for the MS and HS and a fun school nutrition newsletter for all schools and parents.
- Turner's will remain our milk and dairy vendor. Schwebel's will be our bread vendor, and Brigiotta's will be our secondary produce vendor
- The cafeteria will no longer be included in the District beverage contract. This allows us to offer a wider variety of beverages to the students at a significant cost savings. Vending machines will still be available on campus.

## IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR SY 16-17 (CON'T)

- The annual cafeteria art contest will continue in the 17-18 SY.
- The Food Service Department launched a Facebook page during the 16-17 SY. Check it out at [www.facebook.com/gmfoodservice/](http://www.facebook.com/gmfoodservice/). All menus are posted here as well as important FOOD news and fun pics of the Food Service staff and your kiddos.
- **HAMBURGERS, CHICKEN SANDWICHES, AND FRIES** are returning to the HS daily A La Carte menu in the 17-18 SY. Your children asked and we listened. Remember though....all foods served in our cafeterias meet federal and smart snack guidelines.
- Premade salads replaced the salad bars at the MS and HS this past year and were a huge hit. We have also added a Bistro Box to the menu along with salads of the month at the MS.
- **GM WILL IMPLEMENT A NEW CHARGING POLICY FOR THE 17-18 SY. THE MAIN POINTS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS PACKET BUT THE COMPLETE POLICY IS AVAILABLE ON THE DISTRICT WEB PAGE AND BY EMAIL ON REQUEST.**

## IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR SY 16-17 (CON'T)

### SOME RELIEF FROM THE SCHOOL MEALS REGULATIONS

- ❖ Sodium restrictions will NOT be lowered any further. The current regulation will stay in place. For a sodium restriction chart for school meals, please contact the Food Service Coordinator.
- ❖ Whole Grain rich foods will only be required for 50% of the grain products served instead of 100%. We can serve white pasta/rice again.
- ❖ Flavored Milk can now be 1% milk fat instead of 0%.

These changes will allow flexibility in menu planning and give your children more palatable but still nutritious choices in the lunch lines.

# Free and Reduced Meal Eligibility

- ▶ Your child(ren) might be eligible for free or reduced price meals depending on your family's household size and income. The District has two methods to determine your child(ren)'s eligibility. The two methods are Direct Certification and manual review of a Free and Reduced Meal Application.
- ▶ Direct Certification:
  - DIRECT CERTIFICATION FAMILIES DO NOT HAVE TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION
  - If your family receives Food Stamps (SNAP) or Cash Assistance (TANF), you will be Direct Certified by the state and receive FREE MEALS (but NOT snacks or ala carte items). The Direct Certification list is published in July of each year. If you are a Direct Cert family, you DO NOT have to send in an additional application. You will be notified of your eligibility through a letter of Direct Certification from the Food Service Coordinator. If you have questions about Direct Certification, please talk to your case worker as there are other qualifiers for this eligibility.
- ▶ Free and Reduced Meal Application:
  - At the beginning of each school year a Free and Reduced Meal Application is sent home with your child.
  - These forms should be completed regardless of your eligibility. They are used to update our POS (point of sale) system and provide information that the Federal and Local Government requires for Food Service reporting.

# Free and Reduced Meal Eligibility (continued)

## ► Free and Reduced Meal Application (continued):

- The application can also be completed online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us). It is highly recommended that you use the online forms because they are easier to complete and provide immediate eligibility information. They are also less error prone than the manual method of determining eligibility.
- The District will review your application and send a letter to let you know whether your application has been approved or denied.
- Forms can be submitted at any time during the year as your family's situation changes, however, if an initial form is not received by OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> of the current school year, your child's meal plan will default to Full Pay status until an application is received.
- **CHARGES ACCRUED BEFORE ELIGIBILITY IS DETERMINED MUST BE PAID**
- Please be aware that the FSC receives hundreds of applications and has to manually process them. Responses will be issued as they are processed; usually 1 week from when they are received.

# Failure to Submit a Free and Reduced Meal Application

- ▶ If you are not a Direct Certification family and you do not turn in a Free and Reduced Meal Application, your child will be considered a Carry Over until October 7<sup>th</sup> of the current SY. After October 7<sup>th</sup>, their status will default to Full Pay in the Point of Sale (POS). Any charges accrued during this time will be payable until the time the FSC receives an application and the status changes.
- ▶ The FSC will send out reminder letters regarding the end of the Carry Over period. Food Service notifications will either come home via one of your children or arrive in the mail. The envelope will be marked CONFIDENTIAL.
- ▶ Accounts will be adjusted back to the date on the application if an adjustment (either positive or negative) needs to occur.



# The Verification Process for Free and Reduced Meals

- ▶ On the first operating day in October each school year the District is required to conduct a Verification Process on a percentage of the Free and Reduced Meal Applications received.
- ▶ If you are randomly chosen for this process, you will receive a detailed letter explaining the information needed. This information must be sent to the FSC by November 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year.
- ▶ Failure to submit the required information will result in your child's meal status going back to Full Pay.
- ▶ If the Verification process determines that there is a change in Meal Status, you will be notified by mail from the FSC.

# Meal Components and What Qualifies for Free or Reduced Meals

- ▶ The government regulations pertaining to the National School Lunch Program require certain meal components to be part of our school's menus. **If your child gets what is on the published menu for any given day, it is a qualified meal.**
- ▶ A Free or Reduced Breakfast must have a Whole Grain, Fruit, and Liquid Milk Component to qualify for the Free or Reduced eligibility. MILK CAN BE DECLINED.
- ▶ A Free or Reduced Lunch must contain 3 of the 5 following components and 1 must be a fruit or vegetable:
  - Grain
  - Fruit
  - Vegetable
  - Meat or Meat Alternative
  - Milk

**IF YOUR STUDENT DOES NOT FOLLOW THIS GUIDANCE, THE MEAL WILL NOT BE FREE OR REDUCED AND THEY WILL BE CHARGED THE ALA CARTE RATE**

**\*ALA CARTE AND SNACKS DO NOT QUALIFY FOR FREE OR REDUCED RATES\***

# SY 16-17 Meal Rates

## ▶ BREAKFAST:

### ▶ ALL Schools:

- ▶ Full Pay: \$1.75
- ▶ Reduced: \$.30

## ▶ LUNCH:

### ▶ Elementary Schools:

- ▶ Full Pay: \$2.40
- ▶ Reduced: \$.40

### ▶ Middle and High Schools:

- ▶ Full Pay: \$2.50
- ▶ Reduced: \$.40

▶ SMART SNACKS: Average \$.50

▶ MILK: \$.55

▶ ALA CARTE items pricing available upon request from the FSC

# Paying for Your Student's Meals

- ▶ Funds can be added to child's account in two ways:
  1. SchoolCafe.com (preferred)
    - o new web-based system to be implemented for the 17-18 SY
  2. Money (cash or check) sent to the school with your student
- ▶ **GM School District does not allow individuals to charge for meals**, however, we do have a \$8.00 grace amount for full pay students and a \$4.00 grace amount for reduced meal students. After your child exceeds the grace amount, you will receive a reminder notice to add funds to their account. If the negative balance is not resolved in 5 days, you will receive a second notice and your child will be served a PB&J sandwich (cheese sandwich for those with allergies), a piece of fresh fruit, vegetable sticks, and white milk until the account is paid. An additional meal charge will be charged for the alternate meal. **No breakfast, a la carte, snacks, or extras will be served to children with delinquent accounts.** If another 5 days goes by and the account is still in default a letter from the Business Manager will be MAILED home, your child's account will be deactivated until payment is made. At this point your child will be required to bring a packed lunch. If payment is still not made, you will be turned into the District Magistrate for "failure to pay a debt".
- ▶ Returned checks will incur a \$35.00 processing fee.
- ▶ \*\*Students will not be denied an alternate meal if they have nothing to eat or no money with them

# Important Numbers

- ▶ MAIN NUMBER: 814-273-1033
  
- ▶ EDINBORO ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA
  - ▶ HEAD COOK: Kim Belden.....x3602
- ▶ MCKEAN ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA
  - ▶ Head Cook: Jodie Stine.....x4401
- ▶ PARKER MIDDLE SCHOOL
  - ▶ Head Cook: Debbie Lathrop.....x2724
- ▶ GM High School
  - ▶ Head Cook: Deanna English.....x1605
- ▶ District Food Service Coordinator
  - ▶ Nicole Keller.....x2618