

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At the beginning of the school year a letter was sent home explaining how nationwide waivers for our federally funded meal programs were put in place to allow for free meals over the course of the pandemic. This school year those waivers expired pushing school districts back to charging for lunch and breakfast. We have been fortunate enough so far to provide free breakfast at all schools, however; starting March 1st, breakfast will no longer be free for high school students. The cost of breakfast will be \$1.50, for grades 9th through 12th. Elementary and middle school will continue to be free.

Many school districts across the country this year saw a significant decline in student participation due to these waivers expiring and schools are now charging for meal programs. Other factors hurting the National Lunch Programs are supply chain shortages, rising cost of food and paper products, and competing with a competitive labor market to maintain staff. With New Haven being one of the smaller school districts, we have taken a pretty good hit on all factors. Therefore, starting March 1st, we will be increasing the lunch prices for all grades. High school and middle school lunch will increase to \$3.00/meal and Elementary will increase to \$2.75/meal. This choice was not taken lightly and please understand that we will still have some the lowest meal prices compared to surrounding school districts.

Again, because these are issues that many districts are facing, the Governor has a proposal in her budget for next year to make school meals free again for everyone. If this gets passed, this will defiantly help food service bounce back as well as giving you at home relief, because let's face it we are all are seeing the constraints of rising food cost in more places than just schools.

If you have not filled out a free and reduced application this year please do so, if you already have and are receiving free meals you do not need to reapply until next school year. There are a couple of ways to fill out a free or reduced application. You can fill out a paper copy and return it to your students' school or apply online through the New Haven Community Schools website, see instructions below.

Applying online instructions: go to **newhaven.misd.net**

Click on **Department**

Click on **Food Service**

Click on **Application for free or reduced meals** (right column under Food Service)

Click on **<http://lunchapp.com>**

Click on **<http://familyportal.cloud>**

Search **New Haven Community Schools**

Click **Apply for Benefits**

****Frequently asked question "Where do I get my student's student ID?" This is the five-digit number which can be found in PowerSchool. 6th through 12th grade students use this number at lunch, you may email me and I can look it up, or you can contact your students' school. (This number is needed when creating a family portal account).**

For families with multiple students in the district, only one household application is needed. If qualified, meal benefits will apply for the entire school year. Should your household financial circumstances

change at any time, please be aware that applications can also be submitted throughout the year. For families receiving other benefits, such as SNAP or TANF, you may receive notification that your student(s) is/are automatically eligible for free meals and do not need to apply.

Please read instructions carefully on the application, if you need assistance with applying I can be reached by email at ascheid@newhaven.misd.net. I will also be available for in person assistance on these days if you would like help with your application, applying online and/or setting up your student's family portal account.

March 3rd 2pm-3pm New Haven Elementary Cafeteria

March 10th 2pm-3pm Endeavour Cafeteria

March 17th 2pm-3pm New Haven High School

Please remember that you will be entering school buildings while school is still in session. You will need to check in at the front office, sign in and obtain a visitor pass.

Other changes that will be happening over the next couple weeks include changes to lunch choices at the high school and middle school. Due to food cost and supply chain issues, students will see a change in menu choices. These are the stations that we will be providing at both schools for our 6th through 12th grade students:

- Everyday there will be choice of pizza, chicken sandwiches, and burgers.
- A full-service deli and salad stations will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Full-service taco/nacho bar will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- On Friday's students will get an American Classic station which will consist of some of their favorites, rotated every Friday (i.e. house made mac n cheese, spaghetti and meatballs, pulled pork sliders, and Orange Chicken w/rice and Egg roll to name a few).
- Elementary will continue to run an A and B option, please note that menus are subject to change.

When creating these menus, we try to keep student and parent choice in mind, while meeting the requirements and regulations that are set by the state and federal guidelines for school nutrition. If you have any questions about the menu or suggestions please feel free to email me.

Hope everyone has an amazing rest of the school year! Please reach out if you have any questions. The best way to contact me is by email for a quicker response, as I am usually at each school through out the day and week.

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