



415 OHIO STREET | HELENA, ARKANSAS 72342 | PHONE: 870.753.9035 | FAX: 870.753.9450

August 5, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The beginning of school is nearly here and we are certainly getting excited to welcome our new and returning students. I'm writing to you today as a follow up to my last letter regarding the changes in our food service program.

We have crews working every day to complete our brand new kitchen. Ms. Dockery and her team have already begun planning menus and ordering food to prepare some delicious and nutritious meal options. Personally, I'm looking forward to her BBQ sandwich and taco salad which I know will be fantastic. If you would like to know what she is preparing each day please visit our website as she'll be posting the menu on the last Friday of every month. Our August menu will be posted by Monday the 10th. Keep in mind that the menu is subject to change as our food suppliers don't always have every ingredient we need.

As I mentioned in my last letter, we must begin charging our students who do not qualify for free meals. We have worked with the State Child Nutrition Unit as well as surveyed other schools in the region to establish meal pricing. They are as follows:

- Students who qualify for free meals will continue to receive those meals at no cost.
- Students who qualify for reduced price meals will pay \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch.
- Students who do not qualify for free or reduced meals will pay \$1.00 for breakfast and \$1.50 for lunch.
- Our staff will pay \$1.75 for breakfast and \$3.00 for lunch.

To ensure your meal status is accurately reported it is important that you fill out your free and reduced meal application forms. If you do not submit a form we must charge your child at the full price. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your meal status.

We will not be collecting cash from the students at each meal. Instead, we invite you to prepay one month at a time by stopping by and visiting your school’s office manager. The table below indicates our monthly charges and is based on twenty breakfasts and twenty lunches. Saturday meals will continue to be free for all students and staff.

Classification	Breakfast	Lunch
Reduced	\$6.00	\$8.00
Paid	\$20.00	\$30.00

Our system will track each child’s food consumption. If your child is absent, eats breakfast at home, or brings a lunch on a particular day, the balance will simply carry forward to be used another day. If, for any reason you are unable to prepay the meals we will generate a bill on the last Monday of every month which can either be sent home with your child or mailed directly to you. Please indicate your preference the next time you visit our office managers.

We certainly recognize the impact this change will have on family budgets and hope you will find our pricing and payment options to be flexible and easy to manage.

Thank you and as always, if you have any questions, please contact me at 870-817-8859 or the school leaders:

- Mrs. Amanda Johnson – 870-714-0264
- Mr. Jemar Tisby – 870-714-0516
- Mr. Luke VanDeWalle – 870-817-9189

Sincerely,

Scott Shirey
Executive Director