

Dear Parents:

Greetings & Happy Fall. We are pleased to provide tasty and nutritious meals to your students and thank you for your patronage. Below is the Back to School Newsletter, it should help answer most questions regarding our programs.

Greg King
Director of Dining Services, South Windsor Public Schools,
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BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PRICES 2020-2021

	BREAKFAST	LUNCH
ELEMENTARY	\$1.70	\$2.85
TIMOTHY EDWARDS	\$1.80	\$3.00
HIGH SCHOOL	\$2.00	\$3.25/\$3.75
<i>MILK - 8 OZ - \$0.65</i>		

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

Welcome to our **breakfast** and **lunch** program! You will find our Food Services staff warm & friendly and willing to answer your questions. To get you started:

IN SCHOOL STUDENTS

- **Breakfast** is available to all students from 20 minutes before school. If you are having trouble getting your child to eat breakfast before leaving for school, we offer a great breakfast at school! Encourage them to stop in and see what we are cooking up for them.
- South Windsor Schools Food Services requires students to use their Student ID number for all meal and A la Carte purchases. This number is assigned when they are registered into South Windsor district and is used for many identifying purposes including logging into school computers. An ID card will be provided the first day of school to all students. It would be brought down to the cafeteria and then scanned at the register to eliminate contact with a pin pad.
- There are many safety practices put in place to keep your students and the staff healthy. Traffic patterns in the buildings will be supervised along with some students eating in classrooms and some in the cafeteria or alternate location to provide distance between students. We will offer a limited menu to expedite the selection process. Please check out the menus online for more information.
- Keep in mind students not selecting a fruit or vegetable with their breakfast or lunch entrée will need to pay a la carte prices.
- In addition to the breakfast and lunch meals offered, we do offer a selection of snacks that comply with the USDA and CT Healthy Foods guidelines. We suggest that you discuss with your student their options and consider allowing the account to be open for both meal and a la carte items as students adjust to our meal plan and guidelines. Purchasing snack items is a decision between parent and child. Please discuss with your child how you would like to handle the snacks offered.
- If you are concerned about your child making the right choices, please know that you have the ability to limit their accounts to meals only or meals and milk only or to open the account for meals and snacks as well. Send in a [Student Account Management form](#) found on the Food Services website under Forms with your child. This allows our team to set up your child's account correctly.

DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENTS

- For students learning outside of the school setting, we will have meals offered at a grab and go location at South Windsor High School. These meals will be handled like those for in school setting and **will require the students pin number with payment on account to purchase**. Please note under the existing USDA waivers for SY 2020-21, sponsors will not be able to provide meals to children **not** currently enrolled in the district at the same low rate. Meals for children not enrolled in the school district can be purchased for \$4.25.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- At Timothy Edwards there are more options than those offered at the Elementary schools. This gives your students some flexibility in making choices as they move through the serving lines.
- At South Windsor High School, we offer many of the most popular items for both breakfast and lunch at the regular prices of \$2.00 for breakfast and \$3.25/\$3.75 for lunch. All students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals can choose either tier with no additional costs! During modified meal service all meals offered for lunch will be at the lower tier \$3.25. Once our program goes back to regular service, then both price tiers will apply.

POINT OF SALE AND STUDENT ACCOUNTS

All students use their student ID to access their meal account to purchase breakfast, lunch and snacks. Their Student ID is the number that identifies them in the district and the same number used to access their Chromebook. This allows:

- Quicker service in the line with touchless transactions
- Identify students with allergies and food restrictions
- Parents to put controls on what their child can purchase

Students are expected to pay for meals and snack items at the time of service. This means that funds in the students account are available daily.

Our Point of Sale program works directly with EZSCHOOLPAY to provide detailed information about your students' accounts so you can view it FREE anytime! We strongly recommend that all parents sign into [EZSCHOOLPAY](#) to access your child's account information.

From [EZSCHOOLPAY](#) you can:

- View balances & receive low balance email reminders
- Check child's spending habits
- View online account statement & make payments
- Set up automatic payments based on account balance

Parents are ultimately responsible for maintaining an adequate balance in their students' accounts. You can log onto www.EZSchoolPay.com to monitor each child's account.

To reduce problems at the register for our elementary students, we will notify a parent when the student's account is getting low with a note home in their back pack.

MEALS WITHOUT FUNDS

Our Food Services team in each school work to ensure that every child has a meal available every day regardless of funds on account. It is important that children have a meal to maintain focus throughout the day.

Our team at each school will contact parents by phone or email at the end of lunch service if their child has had to borrow for a meal. **Parents are expected to send the borrowed amount the next day along with additional monies to be added to their child's account if future purchases are planned.**

Snack and A la Carte meal sales will not be offered to students that have a negative balance on account and repeat borrowers and delinquent re-payers will be referred to school administration to assist in the collection of funds.

PAYMENT PROCEDURES & ACCOUNT DEPOSITS

There are 3 ways to place money onto your child's account:

Cash: Highly discouraged at this time, however, it will be accepted in any amount at any register at each school.

Checks:

- Written for at least \$25
- Made out to SWSFS (South Windsor School Food Service)
- Written in blue or black ink
- Include your child's first and last name for reference.

Checks not meeting requirements will be returned.

Online payment: Credit card payments are accepted through the EZSchoolPay.com website. Please note there is a transaction fee charged and explained on the website.

APPLYING FOR FREE & REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

We have posted our application online with instructions and will be sending a paper copy home on the first day of school.

QUICK TIPS

Applications for free & reduced-price meals approved during the 2019-20 school year have a grace period of 30 school days before expiring. You need to apply each year and we encourage you to apply early, however, you can be assured that students who qualified last June are extended the same benefit until you submit a new application or October 20, 2020, whichever comes first.

Do not submit the application by email – it is not a secure way to do so and original signature needs to be on file. Submit in a sealed envelope addressed to **Lisa Clayton, Food Service Specialist, 161 Nevers Road, South Windsor, CT 06074.**

If your household currently receives Special Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits or Temporary Family Assistance (TFA), your children will be included on a confidential list provided to the determining official in our district by the Department of Social Services (DSS). Your family should receive a letter outlining your qualification status from our Food Service Department by the third week in August. If you have not received a letter before school starts, please contact **Lisa Clayton, Food Service Specialist at 860-474-1499.**

If you need the Free and Reduced-Price Application in an alternate language, you can reach out to Lisa Clayton at the above contact information.

BREAKFAST NEWS

As we all recognize that children focus best when they're well nourished, the first step is ensuring that all students begin the school day with a nutritious breakfast at home or at school. The School Breakfast Program exists as an alternate opportunity to provide a nutritious breakfast to all students.

SWPS offers a nutritious school breakfast for your children every morning at all schools. These meals provide your child with one-fourth of their nutritional needs each day.

Click the link to access our menus <https://southwindsor.nutrislice.com/menu/menus-eula>



JOIN OUR TEAM

Substitutes play a vital role in keeping our breakfast and lunch program running smoothly. We offer opportunities to work as a substitute in our Food Service department and welcome you to apply. Check out available per diem and part time positions at <http://compassgroupcareers.com/>

MENUS



School menus are available online. South Windsor Public Schools, in partnership with Chartwells K12, uses Nutrislice to publish the school menus which are in an interactive website and a free smartphone app! Now you can access your menus anywhere, anytime! Check out allergen information and gather nutrition information on all of the items on the menu. Click the link to access our menus

<https://southwindsor.nutrislice.com/menu/menus-eula>



CONTACTING FOOD SERVICE

Director of Dining Services – Greg King – 860-474-1440 gregory.king@compass-usa.com

- For questions regarding account purchases, account balance, lunch payments, menu offerings or to report concerns.

Food Service Specialist – Lisa Clayton – 860-474-1499 llclayton@swindsor.k12.ct.us

- For questions regarding Free and Reduced-Price Meals Application.