



**Tewksbury
Public Schools**
Food & Nutrition Services
Good Nutrition is Our Mission!

September 2020

Yes, this fall our school year will be different and our food service program will change. However, our commitment to meet the nutritional needs as well as safety for all our students remains our priority! We will be faced with uncertainty and challenges and will move forward and continue to find balance and effective ways to adjust and implement changes together. TPS Food & Nutrition staff are looking forward to serving meals to energize the minds and bodies of our young learners.

We have received many questions from parents and guardians that we thought would be helpful to share.

- 1. Do all students get free lunch? Yes, the USDA has extended the free meals for all students until December 31, 2020 – or – until federal funds are depleted.**
- 2. Does this mean I do not have to complete the free and reduced meals application? NO, please be sure to complete and submit an application. You can go to the [website](#) to print a copy of the application and return to your child's school or direct to the Food & Nutrition Service office.**
- 3. I am confused, if kids are getting free meals then why do we need to complete a free and reduced application? In addition to providing a seamless transition back to the National School Lunch Program in January 2021 when the USDA funds are no longer available it also assists qualifying students with additional benefits, including increased school funding and discounts on fees for college applications and academic tests.**
- 4. Is breakfast included? Yes, a breakfast meal will be provided for the following day to consume at home.**

5. Will lunches be available to full time remote learners? Yes, you may pick up curbside at the Wynn Middle School on Monday and Wednesday from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
6. What will the times be for remote lunches? Curbside pickup at the Wynn Middle School on Monday and Wednesday 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. Each day will contain 3 breakfast and 3 lunch meals
7. How will my child receive his/her meal? Meals in grades K-4 will have their meals delivered to the classroom before departure. For grades, 5-12 the meals will be available to grab and go at the exits.
8. Can my child eat lunch on the bus? No, all meals are intended to be enjoyed at home.
9. Will there be a menu available for remote and hybrid? The menu will be the same for both learning models (Hybrid and Remote) and will be posted on the Food & Nutrition website. *Note: due to the uncertainty of product availability menu is subject to change – we will do our best provide updates.*
10. Will my child be able to get a double lunch? No, at least not at this time.
11. Will my child have a choice for lunch? We will not be offering choices during the month of September, unless your child has a documented allergy.
12. Will gluten free lunches be available and how would I be able to obtain one for my child? Yes, if the student has been diagnosed with celiac please notify the nurse and kitchen manager.
13. What if my child has an allergy, what do I need to do? You need to be sure to contact the school nurse and kitchen manager to review your child's specific needs.
14. Does my child need to be in the car to pick up remote lunches? No, your child does not need to be in the vehicle during pickup.

15. Will I be able to pick up lunch at my child's school? No, all hybrid learners (K-12) when not in session will have curbside pickup on Monday (Cohort B) and Wednesday (Cohort A) at the High School Noon to 2:00 PM. Full Time Remote Learners may pick up at the Wynn Middle School on Monday and Wednesday.
16. For full time remote children is pickup every day? No, only Monday and Wednesday at the Wynn Middle School, noon to 2:00 PM
17. What kind of lunches will be available? Weekly menus will be posted on the website – and will include cold and/or to heat at home meals that meet the USDA Guidelines.
18. How are the lunches going to be packed to go home? Will it be difficult to carry for little ones? We will pack a daily lunch bag to carry or students may put in their backpacks.
19. Will you be offering snacks or a la carte items? Not at this time.
20. Will we be getting lunches that need to be cooked sent home? Some meals for curbside may be prepacked for reheating at home.
21. Do we need to sign up for lunch's weekly/daily? At this time, we are asking for classroom counts daily. We will be implementing a software that will allow parents to place a preorder direct to food & nutrition services. Stay tuned for more information.
22. I think it is great that all students can get a free meal through school, but I would not want to take from someone else. You will not be taking from another student; this program is through the USDA and is available to ALL students.
23. My child has a balance in their account and not sure of what happens with that money. All students' balances transfer to their account at each grade level.

24. Whom should I contact if I have questions and/or concerns? You should contact the school Manager/Lead, refer to the contact list on the Food & Nutrition Services website or call direct to the school and press “option 6”.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate through the challenges of this pandemic one meal at a time!