

**PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Frequently Asked Questions about Food Services

What's new for 2019/2020?

- Breakfast prices:
Elementary @ \$1.50 Secondary @ \$1.75 Reduced @ \$.30
- Lunch prices:
Elementary @ \$2.70 Secondary @ \$2.95 Reduced @ \$.40
- Breakfast and lunch menus, along with nutritional information, may be obtained from the food services department page of the District web site.

What is a reimbursable meal at breakfast?

- A reimbursable meal at breakfast consists of 4 components:
meat/meat alternative, bread/bread alternative, or combination
fruit
fruit juice
8oz fluid milk
- A child **must** take either a ½ cup fruit or ½ cup juice to receive the meal price.

What is a reimbursable meal at lunch?

- A reimbursable meal at lunch consists of 5 components:
meat/meat alternative
bread/bread alternative
vegetable
fruit
8oz fluid milk
- A child **must** take either a ½ cup fruit or ½ cup vegetable to receive the meal price.

Why don't the lunch ladies put everything being served on my child's plate?

- The National School Lunch Program requires food service departments to operate under "Offer vs Serve".
- Offer vs Serve allows students to take 3 of the 5 components to make a meal.
- Reasons:
 - Eliminates waste;
 - Allows for mass customization;
 - Meets individual needs, giving student's control of choice; and
 - Controls costs.

How do I pay for breakfast or lunch?

- Cash deposits in any amounts may be sent in daily, weekly, or monthly. Please place cash deposits in an envelope and include your child's full name, teacher, and amount of deposit.
- Personal checks made payable to "PSD Food Services" are accepted; post-dated checks are not accepted; returned checks are subject to a \$25.00 fee. One check may be sent in for multiple siblings; please place in an envelope and include each child's full name, teacher, and amount of deposit.

- “MySchoolBucks.com” is an easy and secure way for parents to add money to their students’ account using a credit card, view their transactions, and receive low balance notifications.

What happens if my child forgets their lunch money?

- Students may charge a **meal** at all buildings. Students are not denied meals.
- Debts to the cafeteria are expected to be paid in a timely fashion.
- Parents may notify the food services office in writing of their request to block charging from their student’s account.
- If a child does not have money, they will **not** be permitted to purchase or charge a la carte items.

Does every student have a cafeteria account?

- Every student receives an account upon entering Parkland.
- Students keep their same PIN throughout their years at Parkland.
- Their PIN is their student identification number.

Can I regulate what my child purchases in the cafeteria?

- Restrictions may be applied to any child’s account.
- To add a restriction on your child’s account, please email Mrs. Seier at seier1@parklandsd.org.
- Once a restriction is applied to an account, an email must be sent to remove the restriction.

Where did all my money go?

- Parents may view their students’ account activity through “**MySchoolBucks.com**”.
- Student activity history is available for approximately 60 days.
- Low balance alerts may be sent to emails or cell phones.
- MySchoolBucks is a third-party vendor providing a service for the District. Fees charged through the web site are retained by MySchoolBucks.

What happens to my child’s account balance at the end of each school year?

- If your child’s balance is positive, it carries over to the next school year.
- At the end of May of your child’s senior year, their balances are withdrawn. The money is either transferred to a sibling or refunded from the account.
- Account balances less than five dollars may be picked up in person or donated to another student.
- Refunds may be requested by contacting the food services office at 610-351-5670.

What is the difference between a meal price and an a la carte price?

- Meal price:
 - must contain 3 of the 5 components;
 - is reimbursable by the State and federal government;
 - may only be applied once per child per day;
 - must contain ½ cup of fruit OR vegetable;
- A la carte price:
 - the price for any item served in a cafeteria that is not part of a reimbursable lunch;

- the price for an additional menu item; (for example, if a child wants to purchase 2 cheeseburgers, the first cheeseburger is part of their lunch. The second cheeseburger would be at the a la carte price.)
- A la carte prices can be found on our web site and are available in each cafeteria.
- At the start of each school year, our kindergarten students will not be offered a la carte and/or extra items until mid-October.

If my child packs, may he/she still purchase an item from the cafeteria?

- All items served in the cafeteria may be purchased on an a la carte basis by any child.
- A la carte items must be paid either with cash or with money from your child's account.
- If a child owes lunch money, they will **not** be permitted to purchase or charge a la carte items until their debt is paid.

How do I apply for free or reduced-price meals?

- New applications are available and must be submitted each year.
- Applications are submitted at www.schoolcafe.com.
- Families participating in the program at the end of last school year will automatically receive benefits at the start of the new school year. Each family has 30 days at the start of each school year to submit a new application.

How does the food services department budget work?

- The food services department budget is a separate fund from the general fund.
- The department generates revenue from student meals, a la carte sales, federal subsidy, state subsidy, and special events.
- The department incurs expenses such as wages, benefits, food, supplies, trash removal, and equipment repair/purchases.

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