



Dining Services
Northeast Middle School
1170 Fernwood Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018
610-861-8135

Welcome Letter to Parents/Guardians from the Dining Services Department

August, 2023

The new school year is quickly approaching and the Dining Services department is busy preparing for our students to arrive! Please take a moment to review some important information that will assist you in successfully navigating the food service program offered at Bethlehem Area School District.

The BASD Dining Services Department works with our Food Service Management Company, Aramark, to operate 22 school cafeterias serving 13,000 students daily. Services include: breakfast, lunch, free summer meal program (SFSP), afterschool snack program (ASSP), and the fresh fruit and vegetable program (FFVP).

During the height of the COVID pandemic, all schools nationwide were able to provide free meals to all students through a federally funded program. **At this time, the free lunch program has expired**, so BASD must return to charging for meals. For the 2023-2024 SY, Breakfast is free for all students, irregardless of eligibility. Lunch will cost \$2.65 (Elementary) and \$2.85 (Secondary). Reduced priced lunches have no charge.

Unless you received a Direct Certification letter, **a new application must be submitted yearly**. Your student will be eligible to receive the same meal status from the 22-23 school year for 30 serving days after the beginning of the new school year (10/12/2023). You are responsible for any charges on your account until a new application is submitted and approved.

We encourage all families, regardless of income, to complete and submit a short, confidential school meal application prior to the start of the school year to ensure that there are no gaps in meal benefits for students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Parents or guardians can submit this application online at <http://www.schoolcafe.com/BethlehemASD>. Paper applications are also available at your child's school. Please complete only one application per household. You will receive a notification via email and/or mail updating your status for the 2023-2024 school year once your application has been processed.

BASD Food Service Department also uses SchoolCafe to manage everyday meal transactions and purchases. You are encouraged to create a SchoolCafe account to make deposits, view transaction history, and much more. Extra entrees or a la carte snacks can only be purchased if there is money on the student's account to pay for the items being purchased. The \$1.25 transaction fee can be avoided by paying with cash or check. Checks can be mailed to Dining Services: 1170 Fernwood St. Bethlehem, PA 18018.

Earn While They Learn - We are always looking for talented individuals to join the dining service team with perks including family-friendly schedules, no night or weekend work, and more. For more information and to apply online, please visit the dining services website or apply online at <https://careers.aramark.com/job/?req.id=436791>.

We love hearing from parents, and your feedback is important to us. Please reach out to our team with any questions or comments. We're looking forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

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