



Dear WCASD Families,

On behalf of West Chester School District's Nutrition Services, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our students to the 2023 – 2024 school year! We hope you enjoyed your summer and are ready and excited to be back in school. We at Aramark Student Nutrition are pleased to be your school district's food service provider.

Firstly, we are happy to share important information recently released that will benefit many families within the district. The Pennsylvania Department of Education recently announced that breakfast **WILL CONTINUE TO BE FREE FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR** for all schools who participate in the School Breakfast Program (SBP). Students in all West Chester Area School District elementary and middle schools are eligible to receive a free, nutritious breakfast at school each day.

Like last year, lunch meals will not be automatically free, we must collect annual applications for free and reduced-price meals - a meal benefit program administered through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). **If approved, eligible students can eat at a free- or reduced-price at every food station in the cafeteria.** To apply for free or reduced-price school meals, use the link found on the District Food Service page to apply on-line [Food Services / 2023-24 NSLP Application \(wcasd.net\)](https://wcasd.net/food-services/2023-24-nslp-application).

We want to remind and inform all families to take advantage of these meal benefits. We encourage you to check your family's eligibility and apply. It's easy, risk-free, and confidential. Guidelines are available online to help you determine eligibility based on your household size and income level. Meal benefits from the previous school year do not carry over to the next school year and will expire 30 days after the start of the new year. **Families must fill out applications for free and reduced-price school meals every year!!!**

National School Breakfast (SBP) and National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

At WCASD, elementary and middle schools participate in the SBP program and NSLP program. These food service programs provide financial reimbursement to school districts that adhere to specific nutritional standards set by the USDA. The requirements were developed to ensure that students receive a balanced meal, consisting of foods from all major food groups in the right proportions to meet calorie and other nutrient needs. Any meal served at the Elementary and Middle school level must meet the USDA nutritional standards for fat and sodium and contain only healthy whole grains.

Meals and Menu

As we reopen for the new school year, Aramark Student Nutrition is *Powering Potential* for students and faculty with innovations in our menus and enhancements to our overall dining operations. Breakfast and lunch are available every day and served in the cafeteria. When your child dines with us, rest assured that we will be serving delicious, nutritious meals prepared with the utmost attention to safety.

Our menus are posted monthly- you can use the link below to find the menus. Look for seasonal favorites, theme meals and limited time offers that will be offered regularly on each menu!!!

[Food Services / Breakfast and Lunch Menus 23-24 \(wcasd.net\)](https://wcasd.net/food-services/breakfast-and-lunch-menus-23-24)

Snacks/Ala Carte Items

Snacks or “ala carte” items will be sold in the cafeteria at all grade levels. This includes all foods that do not make up a meal including second meals, snacks, and ice cream. In grades K-8, all snacks are required to be Smart Snack compliant, which means they must have meet USDA guidelines for fat, sodium and calories. Parents may put alerts on students accounts to restrict snacks if they choose so by contacting the Food Service office. Students may not charge any ala carte item if their account is in the negative.

Meal Prices/POS system /Payschoolcentral.com.

Breakfast and Lunch for students who qualify for reduced-priced or free meals is at no cost. For the High schools that are not on the NSLP, students who qualify as free or reduced will be able to also receive free breakfast and lunch.

All other students may purchase meals at the prices below.

2023-2024 Meal Prices

	Elementary	Middle School	High School
<i>Breakfast</i>	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$2.00
<i>Lunch</i>	\$2.85	\$3.10	\$3.50

The WCASD Food Service Department uses the PaySchools computerized meal accountability system to confidentially manage everyday meal transactions and purchases. Every student in WCASD is given a unique PIN to their student account. They will use this PIN each time they obtain a meal or a snack from the cafeteria. For students who qualify as receiving free meals, the system will indicate no charge for meals confidentially. Parents can manage and put funds on their students’ account using the Payschools system [PaySchools Central](#). Parents may or may not participate in utilizing the Payschools system, but all have access if they wish to keep a lunch account.

The Payschools system does include a small convenience fee to make deposits on a student’s lunch account to offset the banking fees associated with this transaction. This fee (\$1.25 per ACH transaction and \$1.99 per credit card transaction) will be added to the total charge upon payment. This charge is only for student lunch account deposits. Parents can avoid the fee if paying with cash or check. Please make checks payable to the West Chester Area SD Cafeteria Fund. You can find more information and detailed instructions under the [PaySchools Central](#) link on the WCASD Food Service Page.

We look forward to the upcoming year and working for you to create a happy and healthy environment for all WCASD students. If you’d like more information or have feedback, please call our office 484-266-3880. You can also email: Food Service Manager - Caitlin McGrath at cmcgrath@wcasd.k12.pa.us or Food Service Director - Clare DiSabatino at cdisabatino@wcasd.k12.pa.us or check the district website for the latest news and updates.

Sincerely,

Clare DiSabatino
Food Service Director
Aramark Student Nutrition