

August 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! As the new school year gets underway, we wanted to take a moment and introduce ourselves as the new food service provider for Southern York County School District. We couldn't be happier to have the opportunity to serve breakfast and lunch to students every day. Over the year, we will introduce new menu options, gather feedback, and make other changes to enhance the mealtime experience. We wanted to share a few things that you and your child can look forward to when it comes to mealtime, including information on meal pricing, steps to apply for free and reduced-price meals, managing food allergies, and an inside look at the Global Eats food exploration program we'll be introducing this fall.

Food Kids Love to Eat

Chartwells' team of chefs and dietitians are working to bring even more variety to our menus featuring new recipes with kid-approved foods. Here's a sample of some of the popular menu items that our students love:

- Customized mashed potato bowls
- Assorted freshly made pizza
- Build-your-own taco bar

The value of school lunch is top of mind as families continue to experience inflation and growing food costs at home. In addition to giving kids the chance to try new foods and cut back on food waste, school lunch provides students with healthy, balanced, and safe meals at an affordable price, while saving families time and stress.

Menus and Nutrition Facts at Your Fingertips

Through Nutrislice, an innovative app, students, parents, and faculty have access to school menus, including nutrition information, allergens, and photos. Nutrislice can be downloaded for free from the App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android) and is available on desktop and mobile devices. Menus are also available at www.sycsd.nutrislice.com/menu.

Meal Cost and Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications

For the 2024-25 school year, lunch will cost \$2.50 for the elementary schools and \$2.70 for the middle and high schools. Breakfast will be free for all students. Free or Reduced-Price Meals are available again this year to students who qualify for these benefits.

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/guardians can submit this application online at www.sycsd.org/page/198 or in person at your child's school office. It's an easy and confidential way to ensure your child stays well-nourished at school.

Programs that Encourage Fun and Discovery

This year, we'll highlight the unique ingredients and authentic flavors from cuisines around the world with our Global Eats program. This program brings a world of flavors to the cafeteria for students to branch out their taste buds. Our newest signature program takes students on a food exploration that celebrates cultural heritages, traveling through China, India, Italy, Mexico,

Korea, and the Caribbean. Learn more about this experiential program and find some fun activities on our Global Eats website: www.k12globaleats.com.

Food Allergies and Special Dietary Needs

We recognize the critical importance of our approach to supporting students and families who manage food allergy issues every day and work closely with the families of students who have food allergies and medical conditions that require a modification to their menu.

If you would like your child to receive meal accommodations for food allergies or a medical condition impacting the diet, or if you have any children who are currently receiving meal accommodations, please contact Crystal Overmiller, Director of Dining Services, at 717-235-4811 Ext 4550 or via email at crystal.overmiller@syncsd.org to review the meal accommodation plan, which may require additions or amendments based on ongoing supply chain challenges.

We encourage you to remind your child to be sure to check with the cafeteria manager regarding product substitutions that may not be reflected in the posted menu. We will make every attempt to update Nutrislice in real-time, but please do not solely rely on nutrition or allergen information on Nutrislice to accommodate allergies or medical conditions in the event of last-minute menu changes.

Celebrating Our School Lunch Heroes

As kids advance from grade to grade with new classes and different teachers, the dedicated lunch ladies and men in the school cafeteria are often one of the few constants throughout the academic journey. Throughout the school year, these heroes of the cafeteria are dedicated to making mealtime a bright spot in a student's day, ensuring kids throughout the Southern York community are served nourishing meals.

We're Looking to Grow Our Team!

We are always looking for talented individuals to join the dining services team with perks including, family-friendly schedules, no night or weekend work, hiring incentives, and more. For more information, please reach out to Crystal Overmiller at crystal.overmiller@syncsd.org.

Through sharing our passion for great-tasting food, instilling a desire for food discovery, and most importantly, providing nourishing meals, we're excited to continue serving up happy and healthy to your children in the year ahead.

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!

Thank you,

Crystal Overmiller

Crystal Overmiller
Director of Dining Services
Southern York County School District
717-235-4811 Ext 4550
crystal.overmiller@syncsd.org