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Dear International Academy Families:

Welcome to a new school year! The Bloomfield Hills Aramark Service staff is looking forward to serving the IA students nutritious, great-tasting menus that support their achievements in school and promote healthy lifestyles. Healthy for Life™ is our commitment to create healthier environments and communities, by providing comprehensive nutrition and wellness education. This year we will continue to expand the program to better serve our students and their families; and this year, as part of this expansion, we have updated the program to incorporate more breakfast options for our students.

Breakfast will now be served in the cafeteria as early as 7am on school days. We will also be offering our “second chance” breakfast at 9:15am during crossing time. Breakfast prices range from \$1.85 to \$2.50 for a complete meal which consists of an entrée, a cup of fruit and/or juice and a milk. Reduced price breakfasts, for those who qualify are \$.30 and at no cost for students that qualify for free meals. Please fill out a **NSLP** lunch application if you feel your child qualifies for free or reduced price meals right away so you don’t miss out on any of these great benefits.

At both breakfast and lunch we offer high quality “student-friendly” meals that meet or exceed the latest federal and state requirements. Bloomfield Hills menus are designed 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. The products and the cooking methods we use conserve food quality and nutrients, while limiting the addition of fats. So although you may see popular items like pizza and chicken tenders on our menus, be assured that all school meal selections contain healthy whole grains and are lower in fat and salt than what you find in grocery stores or restaurants. We will also be offering featured recipes monthly that we call “fuel specials”. We will be offering samples of these trending recipes and want feedback on how these items taste and whether we should put them on our menus more often!

We will continue to post signs on each service line to show students how to select a reimbursable meal, as well as to help them understand how their choices fit into the key food groups needed to ensure a balanced approach to healthy eating. The **National School Lunch Program (NSLP) meal pattern and nutrition standards ensure that meals provide** age-appropriate calorie levels ; offer a wide variety of fruits and plenty of vegetables every day, with a focus on nutrient-dense dark green, red/orange and legume vegetable selections along with healthy grains and lean proteins. All complete lunches at the high school level include 1 entrée (which includes a protein and grain), up to 1 cup of fruit or juice, 1 cup of vegetables and 1 cup of milk. All other items do not come with the meal and must be purchased separately. The student only needs to choose 3 out of the 5 components available to them to have it counted as a meal and at least one item on their plate must be a fruit or vegetable. Although ala carte options are available, anyone choosing to purchase a reimbursable meal must have a complete lunch. This applies to fully pay, free and reduced rate meal purchases.

Lunch prices at IA start out at \$3.40. As part of the **NSLP** we also offer Free and Reduced meal rates for those that qualify. The current reduced price for lunch is \$.40. To pay for meals we offer a debit card system, which allows you to prepay for lunches and any funds not used by the students will stay in their accounts indefinitely. All students have ID cards with a district assigned number that is used when lunch is purchased which is entered via keypad at the point of sale.

Students have the following options to pay for lunches:

### **Credit Card**

To deposit money into your student's account online, please visit [www.bloomfield.org/MyBloomfieldPayments](http://www.bloomfield.org/MyBloomfieldPayments). Login and select the school from the left navigation. Add the amount you wish to purchase to your shopping cart and process your payment electronically.

### **Check**

Send to school with student's full name in memo area. Make checks payable to: Bloomfield Hills Schools

### **Cash**

Please put in envelope and print the student's full name on the outside of the envelope. Please do not send large amounts of cash. Cash is accepted at the registers in the middle and high schools.

NOTE: ALTHOUGH WE ACCEPT CASH, A CHECK OR CREDIT CARD IS A MORE SECURE OPTION.

EFFECTIVE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL-Students MUST have money on their account to purchase lunch. Students' accounts MUST be brought into the positive by the first day of school. **Students with negative balances will not be permitted to use their card to purchase lunch until it is not at a deficit.**

Students with low balances are notified in two different ways of low or negative balances:

1. Cashiers will advise students of low account balance.
2. School Messenger will place a courtesy call to all students when their balances fall below \$5

**Please note: The School Messenger system will call accounts with negative or low balances. The School Messenger system will not call an account with an exact balance of "0" or with a balance greater than \$5.**

- Bloomfield Food Service will not cash checks for students. We will assume that checks brought to us are intended for meal purchases.
- There's a \$25 charge for all returned checks. This will be deducted from your student's account
- Balances transfer over from year to year.

Free and reduced lunch applications must be completed at the beginning of each school year. You can apply online at <https://webconnect.bloomfield.org/fsonline/Main/Login>. Forms can be found at your school or on line at [www.bloomfield.org](http://www.bloomfield.org). Please submit all applications as soon as possible, but no later than October 1. Until the application is approved, you are responsible for paying the full amount owed for breakfasts and lunches.

We are proud to serve your child and encourage you to support our ongoing efforts to improve student health and well-being by participating in our Food Service program. For more information about our menus and programs, please visit <https://bloomfield.schoolish.com/> or <https://www.bloomfield.org/departments/lunch>. To learn more about healthy school meals visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov> or <https://www.aramark.com/healthyforlife> Please feel free to call the food service office at 248-341-5671 with any questions or comments.

Thank you!

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