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Dear International Academy Families:

Welcome to a new school year! The International Academy Food Service staff is looking forward to serving your student(s) this year and have been working hard during this unprecedented time to come up with safe and healthy solutions for food service. Together with the collaboration of Bloomfield Hills schools, the Oakland County Health department and the Oakland County Food service directors, we have decided to prepackage all menu items before serving our students. This will allow students to take meals out of the cafeteria to a safe place and enjoy their meal without fear of contaminating it or spilling it along the way.

Together with the International Academy administration, we have come up with a plan to stagger lunch periods to avoid crowding in the lunchroom and lunch lines. The same quality and care will go into our meals as we have in the past. We will maintain our focus on safety, nutrition and food quality this year. An extra emphasis on the safety of our staff and the students we serve will take place by ensuring we all have proper personal protective equipment and staff training.

Breakfast is served every morning in our cafeteria at 7am and we will continue to offer our “second chance” breakfast during the first passing 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.

We will continue to offer a variety of meal choices with one goal in mind: To provide outstanding service and high quality “student-friendly” meals that meet or exceed the latest federal and state requirements. IA 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 your menus, be assured that your child’s school meal selections contain healthy whole grains and are lower in fat and salt than what you find in grocery stores or restaurants. Bloomfield Hills school’s kicks this up a notch by having us provide only whole muscle chicken products and all beef hotdogs. The burgers we serve at IA are also grilled fresh every day! We occasionally offer different foods that students may not have tried before, so please encourage your child to taste these items. They just might become a new favorite!

Signs will be posted 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. For the safety of our students and staff, social distancing markers will also be placed on the floor to avoid crowding in the serving area. All students and staff will be required to wear masks when entering the serving line.

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.

Lunch prices for IA start at \$3.90 and reduced meals are \$0.40 for those that qualify. We offer a debit card system, which allows you to prepay for your students' lunches.

This year, due to the extreme safety measures we are taking, we are discouraging cash transactions. If it is necessary to use cash, please have your student deposit at least the coins of the remaining amount after their transaction.

To make a deposit to your student's account please do one of the following:

1. Send cash or a check (preferable) payable to Bloomfield Hills Schools with your student's name and student i.d. on the record and school memo.
2. Credit card payments can be at www.bloomfield.org/payments.
3. **All account information may be accessed through Parent Connect**

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 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 on-line or get a printable form by going to www.bloomfield.org/departments/lunch. Please submit all apps by October 1. Until the application is approved, you are responsible for paying the full amount owed for lunches. Free/reduced meals include 1 entrée, 1 fruit, 1 vegetable and 1 milk. All other items do not come with the meal and must be purchased separately.

Thank you!

Marianne Romsek

