

WELCOME BACK!



DEAR PARENTS,

The beginning of the school year is approaching, and we would like to extend a warm welcome to let you know that Whitsons School Nutrition has a comprehensive plan to meet all of our student meal needs. Our goal is to serve nutritious, well-balanced meals that appeal to students and to the school community while continuing our safe food handling practices that we always have. With the new challenges presented by Covid-19 we will be particularly focused on new ways to deliver our students the quality and variety our students and families have come to expect, all while meeting the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program requirements.

In this letter you will find where to locate resources and information in addition to our plan for the hybrid model Hamden Public Schools has adopted for the start of the school year. Please keep in mind that as we move forward through the year and circumstances evolve, we will be posting our changes to this document on the Hamden Public School webpage under the food service department section.

DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Randall Mel **Food Service Director** 230-1010 rmel@hamden.org
Kiara Morales Assistant Manager 230-1010 moralesk@whitsons.com
Sarah Hackett Assistant Manager 230-1010 hacketts@whitsons.com



FREE AND REDUCED APPLICATIONS

Applications will be sent home and can also be requested at your child's school. Please complete and return the free and reduced lunch application as soon as possible to your student's teacher or via mail. The free and reduced application is required to be completed annually. If your student is returning, please be aware that last year's status expires on **September 30th**, and if the district has not received a new application, your students' status will be returned to paid status.

The following locations have been approved for Community Eligibility Provisions (Free Meals). Applications for Free/Reduced Lunch will not be completed at these locations:

1. Church Street School
2. Helen Street School
3. Dunbar Hill School
4. Ridge Hill School
5. Shepherd Glen School

MEAL PRICES:

All Reimbursable Meal Prices abide by the USDA & CSDE guidelines.

	Breakfast	Lunch
Paid –WW, BP, Spring	\$1.15	\$2.75
Paid-HMS, HHS	\$1.40	\$3.00
Reduced (all schools)	\$.30	\$.40



WELCOME BACK!

PAYMENTS: ONLINE, IN PERSON AND MONITORING ACCOUNTS

Due to Covid-19 we strongly encourage you to utilize the online payment system described below!

School Lunch Account Information:

Hamden Public Schools offers [mySchoolBucks.com](https://www.myschoolbucks.com), a convenient online service that allows you to securely pay for your child's school meals using your credit/debit card or electronic check.

mySchoolBucks offers families the following:

Convenience:

- Make payments when it's convenient for you, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Monitor your student's account balances online
- Make payments and receive account balance alerts with the new mobile app:

<https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/login/getmain?requestAction=home>

Control:

- Receive low balance email reminders to remind you when it's time to add more money
- View your student's cafeteria purchases

Efficiency:

- Make your payments for all your children in one easy step, even if they attend different schools in the district
- No need for mailing, delivering checks, or sending checks to the school for filling lunch accounts

Flexibility:

- Make payments using your VISA, MasterCard, Discover, credit/debit cards, or electronic check
- Use the option to have payments made automatically adding money to the account each month when a threshold is reached that you set
- Receive deposit confirmations sent directly to your email account

Timeliness:

- Money deposited into mySchoolBucks.com is usually active in your student's account by the next morning

Create a MySchoolBucks account:

Go to www.myschoolbucks.com

Enter Student's School and ID number

The 9-digit student ID number can be obtained by contacting the school lunch manager or main office.

In person payment:

If you must utilize in person payments, please send your students in with either cash or check made payable to Hamden School Lunch Fund in an envelope with your student and teacher's name on it once per week, preferably by check. Payment on the serving line will not be accepted until further notice.



MEAL DISTRIBUTION

REMOTE LEARNERS IN ALL HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Breakfast and Lunch will be available for curbside pick-up Monday through Friday at Hamden High School (auditorium entrance) and Church Street School (Front Entrance)

Meals may only be picked up from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

Students do not have to be present to pick up meals.

Parents and guardians can pick up for more than one Hamden Public School student at a time.

Meals provided will be charged/registered to the students account at the time of pick up.

Due to state regulations, we are not permitted to serve students who do not attend Hamden Public Schools.

For any questions regarding our remote learner's curbside meal pick up options, please contact the Office of the Food Service Director at 203-230-1010

HAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL IN SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

Breakfast will be served at two designated entrances until the end of 1st period

Students will be taking their breakfast back to their classroom

Lunch will be served in the cafeteria, C107 and the Auditorium to accommodate physical distancing protocols.

Meals will be prepackaged to reduce cross contact and increase speed of service.

Tables and frequent contact surfaces will be cleaned in-between lunch waves.

For questions regarding Hamden High School's in-school meal service, please contact the office of the Food Service Director at 203-230-1010.

HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

Breakfast will be served upon arrival at two designated entrances until the start of 1st period

Students will be taking their breakfast back to their classroom

Students will be dismissed to lunches by cohorts in a staggered pattern, pick up their meals in the cafeteria and return to the classrooms to eat.

Lunch students will be required to follow new marked floor traffic patterns to promote physical distancing protocols.

Meals will be prepackaged to reduce cross contact and increase speed of service.

Tables and frequent contact surfaces will be cleaned in-between lunch blocks.

For questions regarding Hamden Middle School in-school meal service, please contact Maryjane Karstensen at 2034077110.

HAMDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS IN SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

Breakfast will be served as students enter their designated entrance hallway upon arrival.

Students will be taking their breakfast back to their classroom.

Students will order their lunches in the morning from their classrooms with their teachers

Instructional assistants will deliver student meals to their classroom/some locations may be eating in the cafeteria if space permits

For questions regarding Hamden Elementary Schools please contact the cafeteria manager's at the provided school line.



OTHER INFORMATION:

To learn more about Whitsons, and to stay up to date with any changes to the food service in Killingly Public Schools please visit our website on the districts webpage at Whitsons.com/Hamden

We 're excited about our continued partnership with Hamden Public Schools as we look ahead to another year of being part of the greater Hamden community. We have been privileged to assist the community consistently since the move to remote learning and all throughout the summer. We thank you for your support and encouragement of us as we all get through this pandemic together.

Sincerely,

Randall Mel Jr.

Randall Mel Jr.
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SNAP

SNAP is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which offers nutrition assistance to eligible individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP helps individuals and families purchase food at participating supermarkets, groceries, and farmers markets. This federally funded program was created to help income-eligible recipients eat well and stay healthy. The program is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture and the CT State Department of Social Services.

