



July 2020

Dear Eastern Carver County Families:

Welcome to the 2020-21 school year! Just as all of you have had to make changes in your lives due to COVID-19, Nutrition Services has made adjustments to ensure that your students and our staff remain safe and healthy. What has not changed is our commitment to providing your students with nutritious and delicious school meals. Meals will be available to all students on any school days they experience in school buildings, as well as days they are distance learning. Please refer to the school nutrition page of the Eastern Carver County Schools website for additional information once the learning model has been communicated to families. Also, please take a few minutes to review the general school nutrition information provided in this packet.

Meal Prices:

Meal prices for the school year 2020-21 are as follows: Lunch for elementary is \$2.65, middle school is \$2.85, high school is \$3.05, and adult is \$3.95. **Breakfast is free for all Kindergarten students** (funded by the State of Minnesota). For grades 1-12, breakfast is \$1.70, and is \$2.25 for adults. *These prices do not include a la carte items which are available in our elementary, middle and high schools. Students receiving free/reduced lunch and breakfast will be charged for purchases that exceed the regular daily lunch price.*

Your student(s) may qualify for free or reduced price meals which include breakfast and lunch on school days in school buildings as well as distance learning days. To apply, complete an online application after August 1st at lunchapp.112online.org, or the enclosed Application for Educational Benefits. **A new application must be submitted each year**, and you can apply anytime, and as many times, throughout the year as your income or number of dependents changes. Students who qualify for reduced priced meals will receive free meals. These meals are being subsidized by the State of Minnesota. While this may not have been a program that you applied for in the past, if you are experiencing job loss or a reduction in work due to Covid-19, we encourage you to apply. At public schools, your application also helps the school qualify for education funds and discounts.

Student Accounts:

Each student has an individual Nutrition Services account that requires individual payments. There are many ways to make a payment to your student's Nutrition Services account.

- Checks can be sent with your student to school and given to either the cashier or the school office. Please make checks payable to District 112 Nutrition Services and write your student's name, grade and school on the memo line.
- Cash payments can be sent with your student to school in an envelope and given to either the cashier or the school office. Please write your student's name, grade, and school on the envelope.
- Many banks offer free bill pay service. This gives you the ability to have your bank send checks directly to Nutrition Services which will be put in to your student's account. In the "recipient" field, enter 112 Nutrition, 11 Peavey Rd, Chaska MN, 55318. Put the name of your student in the note section. You can also choose a one-time payment or set up a recurring one. Please contact your bank or look on their website for more details.
- Online payments can be made with credit/debit cards or checking account debit. To access this service, go to District website (www.district112.org), select the Nutrition Services department from the District Information drop down menu, and click on the icon for MyPaymentsPlus. If you have not set up an account with MyPaymentsPlus, you must do so prior to making a payment. To set up an account, you will need your student's student ID number. There is no charge for using MyPaymentsPlus.com to look up your student's balance or meal purchase history. However, there is a 3.98% transaction fee per deposit to use the online payment system. You can also download an app for MyPaymentsPlus in the Apple iTunes store by searching "MyPaymentsPlus". If you have any questions regarding accessing this system, please call Julie Eklund at 952-556-6152 or MyPaymentsPlus support at 1-877-237-0946.

- Payments can be made via the telephone with a credit/debit card or checking account debit by calling 1-866-524-3542 and then following the prompts. There is a 3.98% fee per transaction to use the telephone payment system and you will need your student's ID number.

To ensure that your student's account is ready for the first day of school, please submit payments online, drop them off during the open house at your student's school, or mail them to their school (Attn: Nutrition Services), by August 28, 2020.

As a reminder, students purchase meals and other items through Nutrition Services using their student ID number. If your student is a returning District 112 student and does not already know his/her student ID number, it can be found on the parent portal. If your student is new to the district, you can obtain your student's ID number at your school's open house/orientation or by calling the 112 Nutrition office at 952-556-6150.

Covid-19 Related Safety Enhancements:

Food safety is a primary focus for our program every school year. For the upcoming year, in addition to our already high level of food safety and sanitation practices, we are enhancing our practices based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Minnesota Department of Health. We are committed to doing our part to prevent the spread of Covid-19 for the benefit of our students as well as building staff. Here are a few of those enhancements which may be a change for your student(s). In addition to gloves and hair restraints that our staff have always worn, staff will now also be wearing masks and face shields while preparing and serving meals to students. We have also installed plastic partitions between students and our cashiers at the point of sale. While we are still offering the same great fresh produce and salads, those items are now being packaged in single serve portions instead of a communal serving format. For a full report on our safety and sanitation enhancements, please visit the Nutrition Services page on the Eastern Carver County Schools website.

Special Diets:

We have a new procedure in place for Special Diet Statements for the 2020-2021 school year. If your student has an existing Special Diet Statement in place from last school year (2019-2020), your student will remain in the allergen menu roster and you will continue to receive your special diet menus from the Nutrition Service Manager at your student's school via email. No additional actions are required. If your student is new to the district or has a new special dietary need, please have your licensed physician, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse (e.g. certified nurse practitioner) complete a Special Diet Statement form. Please make sure that your student's form is sent back to our office no later than August 14, 2020 to ensure accommodations can be made for the beginning of the school year. We will contact you to discuss your student's needs once our office receives your student's Special Diet Form. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Wacker-Hansen at 952-556-6153.

Additional Information:

The Nutrition Services page on the Eastern Carver County Schools website provides a wealth of interesting and helpful information including menus, nutritional information, a la carte pricing, and contact information. We also have informative videos that display the fresh and delicious foods that we offer daily. You can follow us on Twitter @112Nutrition or on Instagram @District112Nutrition to get up to date information on the great things we are doing in the schools.

Do you have questions? Our entire Nutrition Services team is committed to offering delicious and nutritious meals each day. We welcome your questions, comments and concerns now and throughout the school year. You can reach us at 952-556-6150 or Nutrition@district112.org. A well-nourished student makes for a focused learner, and we strive to set up the students in our district for success! Enjoy the rest of your summer and have a great school year!

Sincerely,

Kim Franta
Director of Nutrition Services

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.