

SAUK RAPIDS-RICE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



A path for every student.

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week October 15, 2021

Due to the MEA break next week, there will be no Top 3 Things You Need To Know update on October 22, 2021. The next update will be on Friday, October 29, 2021.

#1 School Lunch and Lunch Account Communication

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools, in conjunction with the USDA, is providing a free lunch to all kindergarten through grade 12 students each day, through the end of the 2021 - 2022 school year. This spring the USDA announced it would continue to reimburse school districts for a free meal for all students and the Minnesota Department of Education extended those waivers to districts in Minnesota. The district also provides a free breakfast each day for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

However, if a student takes a second lunch, second entree and/or goes through the a la carte line the student's food service account will be charged. This week the district sent out a communication to all parents/guardians whose family lunch accounts have a negative balance. Negative balances could be incurred if students are taking a second lunch, second entree or purchasing items from the a la carte line.

Students are not being charged and will not be charged for breakfast or for their initial school lunch through the remainder of the 2021 - 2022 school year. We ask parents/guardians to please talk with your child about whether you want them to purchase a second meal, entree and/or a la carte items.

In order to keep parents/guardians informed, beginning on October 25 negative balance notifications will be sent out to families with a negative balance in their food service account. These negative balance notifications will be sent daily until the account is positive. In addition, low balance notifications will go out weekly to families whose account balance is under \$20.00.



Key Points:

- Kindergarten through grade 12 students are provided a free breakfast and a free lunch each day
- If students take a second lunch, second entree and/or go through the a la carte line their family account will be charged
- A negative balance notification was sent to families this week
- Starting October 25 notifications will be sent to families
 - Low balance notifications will be sent weekly for accounts with a balance of \$20.00 or less
 - Negative balance notifications will be sent daily

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#2 Fever as a Symptom

One of the more common symptoms associated with COVID-19 is a fever of 100.4 or higher. ([Safe Learning Plan, page 4](#)) It is important to remember that if you child has a fever of 100.4 or higher, in order to return to school you must either:

- Provide a negative COVID test result and be symptom free or;
- Provide an alternative medical diagnosis and be symptom free or;
- Quarantine for ten days and be symptom free

This is important to keep in mind as we are finding students who are testing positive and have had a fever of 100.4 or higher.



Key Points:

- A fever of 100.4 is one of the identified “More Common Symptoms” of COVID-19
- If your child has a fever of 100.4 or higher, your options are
 - Provide a negative COVID test result; or
 - Provide an alternative medical diagnosis; or
 - Quarantine for ten days and be symptom free
- The district is seeing an increasing number of students who have had a temperature of 100.4 or higher and then test positive for COVID-19

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 Benton County Broadband Survey

Benton County is currently conducting a broadband feasibility study and hopes that county residents will participate. The purpose of the survey is to determine areas in the county where broadband is not accessible and also to check for speed and reliability of people’s internet access. The survey will help identify problematic areas as well as determine where Benton County can use federal funds to bring better internet connectivity to the county.

Benton County residents and businesses can find the survey on the Benton County website: please click on [Benton County Broadband](#) to participate. All who choose to take the survey are asked to take the [Speed Test](#) survey. If you are in your place of residence, you are asked to take the [Residential Survey](#) and if you are a business in the county please fill out the [Business Survey](#).

This survey is open to all residents of Benton County, not just those who live in the rural areas and is open until November 15. If you have comments or questions, please email broadband@co.benton.mn.us.



Key Points:

- Benton County is surveying all residents to determine current broadband accessibility and reliability
- The survey is found on the Benton County website - [Benton County Broadband](#)
- The survey is open until Monday, November 15, 2021
- All residents, not just rural residents, are encouraged to take the survey

#STORMSTRONG