



Dear La Vega ISD Families,

On behalf of La Vega Nutrition Services, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our students to the 2022 – 2023 school year! We hope you enjoyed your summer and are ready and excited to be back in school. We, as Aramark Student Nutrition, are pleased to be your school district's food service provider.

To help prepare for your child's return to school, we want to share important news you may have heard: As of June 30, 2022, the federal waivers – administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – that made it possible for us to serve school breakfast and lunch meals to students for free throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, have expired.

However, we would like to reassure you that we are committed to providing every student in this La Vega ISD with the tools they need to succeed, including nutritious meals they can enjoy. La Vega is approved for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), a meal program option offered by the USDA that allows us to serve school breakfast and lunch at no charge to all enrolled students, regardless of financial condition. Families don't need to take any action. We only remind and encourage your child to take advantage of this opportunity and grab a school breakfast and lunch every single school day.

As we reopen for the new school year, Aramark Student Nutrition is *Powering Potential* for students and faculty with innovations in our menus and enhancements to our overall dining operations. When your child dines with us, rest assured that we will be serving delicious, nutritious meals prepared with the utmost attention to safety. We encourage every student to fuel up with breakfast and lunch meals each day so they can be energized and prepared to succeed throughout the day, in and out of the classroom. Check out our daily menus on La Vega website.

One thing that you can do to help this important cause is to encourage your students to eat with us. The demands of the classroom can be difficult for children who are hungry, as you know. Studies indicate students who eat breakfast can concentrate better, earn higher grades, and have fewer illnesses*. We do offer various breakfast programs – either in the cafeteria or in the classroom – to ensure students can start the school day right!

(*Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). "Breakfast for Learning." Spring 2014.)

To further enhance our commitment to the health and wellness of our students, this year you can expect to see quarterly nutrition newsletters and monthly student educational materials.

We look forward to working for you to create a healthy learning environment for all students. If you'd like more information, please call our office 254-299-6807 or check the district website for the latest news and updates.

Sincerely,

Dave Thiel
Food Service Director
Aramark Student Nutrition