

Blair Academy Debit Card Questions and Answers 2022-23

What is the Blair Academy Debit Card?

The Blair Academy Debit Card is a multipurpose debit card that covers most areas of incidental and personal spending at the school. Similar to an ATM card, purchases and withdrawals are made as long as there is a sufficient balance in the account to cover the transaction. The Debit Card will also serve as the student's ID card.

When will a student use the Debit Card?

1. to receive a cash allowance
2. to purchase supplies, sundries and clothing in the Book Store
3. to purchase food in the Campus Center (the Black Canteen)
4. to purchase fundraising items, participate in special activities
5. to purchase athletic equipment and attire.

Will all my child's expenses be paid through the Debit Card?

No. Although most expenditures will be charged to the debit card, some will be included on your tuition statement. For example, parents will continue to be billed on the tuition statement for charges such as Fine Arts supplies, PSAT/SAT/AP test fees, lost athletic uniforms, transportation and Library books not returned.

How does the Debit Card keep track of a student's balance?

The card keeps track of one sum of money, the account's current balance. It rations a student's use of this balance through several filters, such as a cash allowance restriction or a canteen restriction. There are no restrictions placed upon the use of funds unless the parent communicates appropriate restrictions to the School on the enclosed "Debit Card Restriction Form".

How will my child get his/her Debit Card?

Debit Cards will be distributed to students on the day of registration.

Is there any Fee for the Debit Card?

There is no fee for the first card issued at the beginning of every year, or to set up your child's account. Replacement cards (due to loss or damage) will cost \$10.00.

How are funds deposited to the Debit Card?

- Utilize an existing returning student account at <https://www.mykidsspending.com> . If you still have a balance in this account it will be available for use this school year or you may add funds at your discretion.

- If you do not have an account at <https://www.mykidsspending.com> you can access the site by clicking on the link and set up an account to use your credit card or an electronic check for depositing funds onto the Blair debit card. This account will allow you to view your statements and set-up automatic deposits if you wish. There is a processing fee associated with these transactions that is explained on the site.

- Blair Academy will still accept all checks or cash received by the school directed to the debit card as a method to fund debit cards but we can no longer accept credit cards for this purpose.

Do I need to fund my child's account for the entire year?

No. You may set up the Debit Card with an initial amount and replenish funds throughout the year.

What happens if a card runs out of funds?

The student needs to anticipate this. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their account and to notify his/her parent to replenish their account when funds are low. Purchases and cash withdrawals with the card will not be permitted unless there is a sufficient balance. Please be advised that it will not be possible for the Business Office to arrange advances into the Debit Card Account. If there is an urgent need for funds, parents may wire funds to students using the instructions listed above.

Can changes be made to restrictions during the school year?

Yes. Changes can be made at any time to either eliminate restrictions in one or all categories, or to make an election of a restriction. Please contact Marivelle Clavel-Davis in the Business Office (908) 362-2028 or e-mail her with the information to davism@blair.edu.

How will students receive their allowance?

Students can make cash withdrawals from their allowance accounts from the Book Store, anytime during its normal business hours.

What if the student does not use the permitted Cash Allowance within the defined period of time?

In this situation the unused funds accrue and become available for use in the next period.

For example, if a student's card permits him or her to withdraw \$20 per week for cash allowance, and if the student withdraws only \$10 in a given week, during the next week the card will permit a cash allowance withdrawal of \$30 (\$20 plus the previously unused \$10).

If there is a spending limit for categories other than Cash Allowance, do unused funds accrue (carry over to the next period)?

No, unused funds carry over into the next period **ONLY** for Cash allowance.

For example, for a Debit Card with a spending limit of \$50 per month in the canteen: the student who spends only \$35 in the canteen in October will continue to have only \$50 for this purpose in November.

What if there are spending limits on my child's account and they need extra money for something special?

If a parent wishes to allow their child to withdraw extra cash for a special occasion but does not want to permanently remove restrictions from their child's allowance account, the parent can call the Bookstore, Mrs. Reanne Mauriello at (908) 362-6121 ext. 5635 or e-mail maurir@blair.edu and simply give permission for additional cash to be withdrawn.

What happens to funds left in my child's account at the end of the year?

A student who has an unrestricted allowance account (or whose parents call to override the restriction) may withdraw up to \$300.00 and all remaining funds will be carried over to the student's account for the next school year. If for some reason the student does not withdraw all the funds and the parent's do not wish the money to be carried over, the parent must call the Business Office (908) 362-6121 and request a refund check.

What happens if the Debit Card is lost or stolen?

Students should report lost or stolen Debit Cards to the Business Office or Bookstore. The Debit Card can then be deactivated in the system so that unauthorized usage cannot occur. Another security feature is that all Debit Cards contain the student's picture and all Blair Academy employees are instructed to check Debit Card photos. Replacement cards (due to loss or damage) will cost \$10.00.