

July 2024

Dear Eastern Carver County Families:

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! We are excited to serve your student(s) and do our best to set them up for learning success by providing them nutritious and delicious school meals. Please take a few minutes to review the information provided in this packet.

Meal Prices:

In March 2023, the Minnesota Free School Meals bill was signed into law. This provides all students in our district with one breakfast and one lunch each school day at no charge.

A la carte items including snacks, beverages, and second entrees, are available to purchase in our elementary, middle and high schools. Students who wish to purchase a la carte items must have a positive balance in their Nutrition Services account.

Application for Educational Benefits (Free and reduced priced meals application):

Your student may qualify for educational benefits. Qualifying for educational benefits may grant your student access to reduced or waived school-based fees including:

- technology insurance
- athletics and activities
- community education classes
- field trips
- Parking

Additionally, it may qualify your family for discounts in the community such as:

- 50% off Southwest Transit
- Free membership to the Children's Museum
- Summer P-EBT benefits

Educational benefit data also qualifies our school district for additional funding that is critical to support the needs of students. To ensure that we have your application for educational benefits processed for the start of the school year, please return the enclosed form by August 23rd or apply online through MySchoolApps which you can access at eccs.mn/nutritionservices. You can also submit a new application anytime during the school year as your income or number of dependents changes.

Nutrition Services 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. ***For the 24-25 school year, Nutrition Services has transitioned to a new service provider, MySchoolBucks, for account tracking and payments.***

- **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 funds directly to Nutrition Services to be placed into 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 choose a one-time payment or set up a recurring one. Please contact your bank for more details.

- **Online payments** can be made with credit/debit cards or your checking account debit. To access this service, visit www.myschoolbucks.com. There is no charge for using MySchoolBucks to look up your student's balance or meal purchase history. However, there is a \$3.25 transaction fee per deposit to use the online payment system. If you have any questions regarding accessing this system, please call Julie Eklund at 952-556-6152, or MySchoolBucks support at 1-855-832-5226.

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 23rd.

Students receive and purchase items through Nutrition Services using their student ID number. If your student is a returning District 112 student and does not already know their student ID number, it can be found on the Infinite Campus 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 952-556-6145.

Special Diets:

If you are requesting any special dietary accommodations for your student for the 2024-2025 school year, please have your licensed physician, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse (e.g. certified nurse practitioner) complete a Special Diet Statement form. We request that these forms be updated each school year and/or whenever the student's diagnosis or special diet changes. Please make sure that your student's form is sent back to our office no later than August 16th to ensure accommodation 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 Kim Franta at FrantaK@District112.org or 952-556-6151.

Additional Information:

The Nutrition Services page on the Eastern Carver County Schools website (www.district112.org) 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 Instagram [@District112Nutrition](https://www.instagram.com/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

Kim Franta
Director of Nutrition Services

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.