



CAFETERIA DEBIT CARD PROGRAM AND FREE/REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM

August 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter contains information regarding Thornton Academy's **Cafeteria Debit Card Program**, provided by third-party vendor [My School Bucks](#). The cafeteria debit card eliminates students' need for cash to purchase food items in the cafeteria. It cannot be used for vending machine purchases.

Please note:

- ***Enrollment in this program is required for all students and employees***
- TA/TAMS ID cards serve as cafeteria debit cards for students. (All Returning TA/TAMS students should bring their prior school ID's with them. Incoming 6th grade students and new students to TA/TAMS will be provided with ID cards once our school photos are taken in September).
- To sign up for the cafeteria debit card program, go to [MySchoolBucks](#) and follow the instructions to set up your student(s) accounts by choosing **Thornton Academy** as the District. If you need your student's school ID number to set up the account, please email Sandra Hopkins at sandra.hopkins@thorntonacademy.org.
- The vendor charges a fee of \$2.75 per transaction to add funds to your account using an echeck (withdrawal from checking account using the routing and account numbers). The fee for using a debit/credit card to add funds is \$3.25 per transaction. A parent may add up to \$120 on each student account in a single transaction, for a single \$2.75 or \$3.25 per student fee. My School Bucks also offers an annual membership, allowing parents to load the account as often as they wish for a one time fee of \$12.95 for one student or \$26.95 for two or more students.
- If you do not have a bank account, credit or debit card, please contact Sandra Hopkins in the TA Business Office to establish an alternate payment method.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- How long does it take for a card to be set up? Your balance will be updated within 30 minutes.
- What if my child loses his/her card?
 - The first time this occurs, Thornton Academy will issue a new card with the same permanent student ID number.
 - For subsequent lost cards, TA will charge \$5.00 to issue a replacement.
 - Please note: It is always important for your child to inform the TA/TAMS Office about a lost card so that cafeteria cashiers can be alerted. They will try to ensure no one else uses the card.

Thornton Academy's Reduced/Free Meal Program - Saco, Dayton, and Arundel Residents Only

To apply for Thornton Academy's free/reduced meal program, please login to <https://www.myschoolapps.com/> and follow the instructions to submit your application by choosing **Thornton Academy** as the District. Please note: If you have applied for the free meal program for younger children attending Saco, Dayton or Arundel schools, you must also apply separately for TA's free/reduced meal program.