

Cafeteria News 2024-2025 School Year

WELCOME BACK!

Please read over the following important information regarding the Food Services Department; if you have any questions, please call our office at 440-572-7058.

BREAKFAST INFORMATION:

Breakfast is served in all Strongsville Schools. There are many benefits to eating breakfast daily. Please encourage your children to take advantage of this opportunity.

All students who receive free lunches are also eligible for free breakfasts. Students who receive reduced lunches are also free this school year, all with no additional paperwork.

Breakfast at our elementary schools costs \$2.00 and is served from 8:50-9:10 a.m.

Breakfast at the secondary level costs \$2.25 and is served at SMS from 7:35-7:55 a.m. and at SHS from 7:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

LUNCH CHOICES:

Each month a menu will be sent home with all elementary students. You can also obtain it online at www.strongnet.org by clicking on the “Menus” icon. All of our menus can also be accessed on your smartphone by downloading the free **NutriSlice** app. The **NutriSlice** app contains menu information as well as important nutritional and allergen information for menu items, so please try it out!

The elementary menus will feature the menu of the day plus two weekly alternate entrees. All meals are served with the appropriate side dishes and milk. Milk may be purchased separately for \$0.60. We offer 1% Low-Fat, Fat-Free Chocolate, and Fat-Free Strawberry.

Lunch sign-ups take place every morning in the elementary classrooms. Students are to indicate if they are buying the regular lunch or one of the alternates. Our cafeterias prepare what is needed based on the sign up every morning, so it is important to sign up for the lunch the student wants so the cafeteria staff has accurate counts. Please review these procedures with your student.

The High School and Middle School menus include multiple different stations and options. All meals include a choice of entree, fruit, vegetables, and milk.

LUNCH PRICES AND PAYING FOR LUNCH:

Student lunches (including milk) are \$3.60 for elementary schools and \$3.95 for the Middle School and High School. Milk can be purchased separately for \$0.60, and extras or a la carte items are priced from \$0.25 to \$2.75. Students with Reduced status will receive their lunches for free again this school year.

We encourage parents to put money on their child's cafeteria account. Strongsville Schools use a Point of Sale (POS) system. There are several advantages of this system, the best being total anonymity regarding your child's meal status--no one knows except the cashier. Students are required to enter their six-digit student ID number on a PIN pad; a copy of the PIN pad is on the last page for you to practice with your younger children so they are prepared.

Money can be added to your student's account in the following ways:

1. A check made payable to SCS can be sent with your student, and the Cafeteria staff will post it to your student's account. Please include the student's name and ID number on the check.
2. A PaySchools Central account can be created and funded with a credit/debit card or checking account; auto-replenishment can also be set up. The link and instructions are on our website which is listed below. PaySchools does charge a small fee for adding money online; however, there is complimentary access to view your student's account spending.
3. Finally, a student can continue to pay with cash in the cafeterias.

CHARGING FOR MEALS:

Elementary and Middle School students may charge breakfast and lunch meals; their cafeteria accounts will go into the negative when this occurs. Once a student has reached the maximum charges, the POS system will not allow more charging. The student would then be given an emergency lunch of a salad, fruit, vegetables, and milk at no charge. Emails will be sent to parents when a student has a negative balance.

High School students may also charge meals (or have a negative balance on their account). Emails will be sent to parents when charging occurs so funds can be added to the account.

Please be aware that all negative balances at the end of the school year will be transferred to the students' school fees. Therefore, it is best for students to have money in hand or a positive balance on their account.

A LA CARTE SELECTIONS:

Each school offers a variety of items that can be purchased separately from the meal. All chips are baked, all ice cream is low fat, and each item meets certain calorie restrictions. Students may purchase a la carte items using cash or their lunch account. Prices range from \$0.25 to \$2.75.

MILK SUBSTITUTION FOR CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL OR SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:

The Ohio Department of Education sets the policy on how schools handle students with medical or special dietary needs in regard to receiving water in place of the milk component. If your child has a life-threatening allergy/disability, we require documentation from a licensed physician that describes the child's condition in order to substitute water. Please ensure the physician's name and phone number are provided, should there be questions.

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCHES:

The application for the Free and Reduced-Price Lunch program is on our website for you to download and print. In addition, you may complete the application online. The instructions to complete the application online are also on our website. **The application is required to be filled out each school year to be considered to stay on the program. The cutoff date this year is October 1, 2024—your form needs to be returned by that date for your students to stay on the program if they were on it last school year.**

For those families applying for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, **please use one form per family.** List all family members on one application. You can return the form to any of the schools or send it directly to our office at 18199 Cook Ave., Strongsville, OH 44136, and we will process it immediately. You will be notified of your qualification for benefits under the program. Please submit your application before **December 19, 2024**, if you'd like to be considered to waive instructional school fees. Families can apply any time during the school year if your financial situation changes; however, your student's first semester instructional fees will not be waived after the December deadline.

If you received a letter from our office stating your students are directly certified to receive free meals for school year 2024-2025, do not complete an application. However, if you'd like to be considered for a fee waiver for your students' instructional fees, you must sign the letter you received where indicated and return it to our office, or you will be responsible for your fees.

WEBSITE:

Important information on the Food Service Program as well as menus, forms, etc., are accessed at scsmustangs.org by clicking on the Food Services page in the Department tab. Links to our menus on NutriSlice, PaySchools, and our Free & Reduced applications are found on our website.

If you have questions, please call our office at (440) 572-7058.

Thank you and have a great year!

Donna Holland
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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer



The lunch lines move faster if everyone knows their number.

PLEASE USE THIS KEYPAD TO PRACTICE!