



## CAFETERIA DEBIT CARD PROGRAM AND FREE MEAL PROGRAM

July 2025

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 a student's 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 with them. Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> 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 child's/children'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 - [Sandra.hopkins@thorntonacademy.org](mailto:Sandra.hopkins@thorntonacademy.org).
- There is a fee of \$2.75 per transaction using an echeck (withdrawal from checking account using the routing and account numbers). The fee for using a debit/credit card is \$3.50 per transaction. A parent with multiple students at either TA or TAMS can add up to \$150 on each student's account in a single transaction for a single \$2.75 or \$3.50 fee.
- My School Bucks also offers an annual membership allowing parents to load the account as often as they wish for a one time annual (school year) fee of \$12.95 for one student or \$26.95 for two or more students. This option requires the use of echeck using the routing and account numbers for your checking account.
- 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, there is a \$5.00 charge to issue each replacement.
  - Please note: It is always important for your child to inform the **TA/TAMS Office** about a lost card, so cafeteria cashiers may be alerted. This will ensure no one else uses the card.

### **Thornton Academy's Free Meal Program - Saco, Dayton and Arundel Residents Only**

To apply for Thornton Academy's free 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 the TA/TAMS free meal program.

**FMI:** Sandra Hopkins    [Sandra.hopkins@thorntonacademy.org](mailto:Sandra.hopkins@thorntonacademy.org)    TA Finance Office    (207) 602-4431

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