Blair Academy
Debit Card
Questions & Answers
2025-2026

What is the Blair Academy debit card?

The Blair Academy debit card is a multipurpose card used for most incidental and personal expenses on campus. Similar to an ATM card, it allows purchases and withdrawals, provided there are sufficient funds in the account. The card also serves as the student's ID and grants access to designated buildings and doors around campus.

When will a student use the debit card?

1. To receive a cash allowance.
2. To purchase school supplies, personal items or apparel from the School Store.
3. To buy food or beverages at the Black Canteen.
4. To buy food or beverages at the Buccaneer Bistro Food Truck.
5. To purchase fundraising items.
6. To participate in special activities.
7. To access campus buildings and secured doors.

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 unreturned library books.

How does the debit card keep track of a student's balance?

The card tracks a single sum of money—the account's current balance—and manages a student's access to it through various filters, such as a cash allowance limit or a Canteen or food truck spending restriction. No restrictions are applied unless a parent submits the appropriate instructions using 2025-26_DebitCard_Restriction_Form. Restrictions can be added or changed at any time during the school year.

How will my child get their 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 $15.

How do I deposit funds to the Blair debit card?

To fund your student's Blair debit card, please use your account at MyKidsSpending.com. If you're a returning user, any remaining balance from last school year will automatically carry over and be available for use. You may add additional funds at any time.

New users

If you don't yet have access to your student's account, you can create one by visiting MyKidsSpending.com. You'll need your student's ID and the setup instructions provided in the email you received mid-August. Through your MyKidsSpending.com account, you can:

- Deposit funds using a credit card or electronic check.
- View account balances and transaction history.
- Set up recurring (automatic) deposits if desired.
- Please note that a processing fee applies to each transaction. Details about fees and other features are available on the MyKidsSpending.com website.

Blair Academy will continue to accept checks or cash to fund debit cards. Please note that credit cards cannot be accepted for in-person payments.

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?
Students need to anticipate this. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their account and to notify their parents to replenish it 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 by contacting Jo Ellen Redshaw, business office & student billing coordinator, at (908) 362-6121, ext 5641, or redshj@blair.edu.

How will students receive their allowance?

Students can make cash withdrawals from their allowance accounts from the School 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 them to withdraw $20 per week for a 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 School Store, at (908) 362-6121, ext. 5635, or 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 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 parents do not wish the money to be carried over, the parent must call the business office at (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 School Store. 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 $15.