

WELCOME BACK!



DEAR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS,

The beginning of the school year is approaching, and we would like to extend a warm welcome and let you know that Whitsons School Nutrition has a comprehensive plan to meet all of our student meal needs. Our goal is to serve nutritious, well-balanced meals that appeal to students and to the school community, while continuing the safe food handling practices that we have always maintained.

In this letter you will find where to locate resources and general food service information for the Hamden Public Schools 2025-26 school year. Please keep in mind that as we move forward through the year any program changes will be posted on the food service page of the Hamden Public Schools website: <https://www.hamden.org/families/lunchmenu>.



DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION:

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SCHOOLS WITH FREE MEALS- COMMUNITY ELIGIBILITY PROVISION

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program meal service option that allows schools and school districts to offer breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students. The following schools and programs have been approved for the Community Eligibility Provision, and all enrolled students will automatically receive one **free** breakfast and lunch meal each school day for the 2025-26 school year: **ALICE PECK, CHURCH STREET, DUNBAR HILL, HELEN STREET, RIDGE HILL, SHEPHERD GLEN, HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL, HAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL, HAMDEN COLLABORATIVE LEARNING CENTER, and HAMDEN TRANSITION ACADEMY.** No paperwork, registration, or application is necessary. Second meals and a la carte items will be charged.



SCHOOLS CHARGING FOR MEALS

Students with paid or reduced-price meal status will be charged for breakfast and lunch at the following schools: **BEAR PATH, SPRING GLEN, and WEST WOODS.** Students with free meal status will receive breakfast and lunch at no cost. Applications for free and reduced-price meals will be sent home and can also be requested at your child's school. A fully online application can be found at www.hamden.org/mealapplication. Please complete and return the free and reduced-price application as soon as possible to your student's school main office, or send to Central Office. The free and reduced application is required to be completed annually. **If your student is returning, please be aware that last year's free or reduced-price meal status expires 30 days after the start of new school year, and if the district has not received a new application, your student's status will revert to paid status.**



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MEAL PRICES

Prices abide by the USDA & CSDE guidelines.

Bear Path, Spring Glen, West Woods	Breakfast	Lunch
Full-Price	\$1.50	\$3.10
Reduced-Price	\$0.30	\$0.40

HOW TO PAY FOR MEALS

Hamden Public Schools offers www.MySchoolBucks.com, a convenient online service that allows you to securely pay for your child's school meals using your credit/debit card or electronic check. **Please note that MySchoolBucks charges a fee for usage.** If you would like to avoid this fee please send your students to school with either cash or check (preferred) to be added to their meal account. Please make checks payable to **Hamden School Lunch Fund**. Please place checks or cash in an envelope with your student's and teacher's name on it, which should be given to the cafeteria cashier.

To get started with MySchoolBucks:

1. Go to www.myschoolbucks.com or download the app
2. Create an account and add your students
Enter your student's school and ID number (The 9-digit student ID number can be obtained by contacting the Food Service office at 203-230-1010, or by emailing hamden@whitsons.com)
3. Pay with your credit/debit card

MySchoolBucks is simple and secure to use. With it you can check balances, receive low balance alerts, and make automatic payments.

MEAL CHARGING POLICY

The district strongly discourages meal charges, but understands that an occasional emergency makes it necessary. It is the responsibility of parents and guardians to keep track of their student account balances and avoid negative balances. To read Hamden Public School's meal charging policy, please visit www.hamden.org/families/meal-charging-policy.

MENUS

To view menus, please visit www.fdmealplanner.com. Type in Hamden, and a list of Hamden Public Schools will come up. Click on the name of the school you want, then select breakfast or lunch. From there you can view the monthly menu. Menus can be viewed in multiple languages.

MEAL SERVICE

HAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL

Breakfast will be served upon arrival from two mobile satellite breakfast carts near building entrances. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria. Access to "The Den" snack station will be available daily.



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HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Breakfast will be served upon arrival at two designated locations: cafeteria and front hallway. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria. Snack Stations will be available daily.

HAMDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Breakfast will be served upon arrival. The way breakfast is served depends on the elementary school. Students will preorder their lunches in the morning from their classrooms with their teachers. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria.

For questions regarding in-school meal service, please contact the Food Service office at 203-230-1010.

NOTE: On the first day of school there will be breakfast service at Hamden Middle School and Hamden High School, but not at the elementary schools.

HAMDEN FOOD RESOURCE GUIDE & SNAP

To view the Hamden Food Resource Guide, please visit:

<https://www.hamden.com/177/Food-Resources>. It contains a listing of available food resources in the area.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) helps people buy food for themselves and their families. SNAP benefits are issued each month on plastic debit cards. You can use SNAP benefits to buy food at major supermarkets, neighborhood grocery stores, online at participating retailers, and some farmers' markets authorized to accept SNAP. For more information about SNAP, and to see if you are eligible, please visit:

<https://www.connect.ct.gov/access/jsp/access/Home.jsp>. Students from SNAP households automatically receive FREE school breakfast and lunch.

VISIT THE HPS WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about Whitsons, and to stay up to date with any food service news, please visit <https://www.hamden.org/families/lunchmenu>.

We're excited about our continued partnership with Hamden Public Schools as we look ahead to another year of being part of the greater Hamden community. We have been privileged to assist the community and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Lyana Earley

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