

August 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We're excited to welcome students back to the cafeteria for the 2026–27 school year! As we prepare for the new year, here's a quick look at what you and your child can expect, including what's available in the cafeteria, meal pricing details, how to apply for free or reduced-price meals, our approach to managing food allergies (including required documentation), and a preview of the new recipes, meal concepts, and programs coming this fall.

Delicious, Nutritious Foods Kids Love

Our team of chefs and dietitians at Chartwells is introducing even more variety to our menus this year, featuring new kid-approved recipes and continuing to offer consistent favorites. All items served meet USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Smart Snack guidelines.

- In **Kennett Consolidated School District**, students can choose from multiple entrees daily. Meals come with low-fat white or flavored milk and a variety of fresh and prepared fruits and vegetables.
- A la carte items like bottled drinks and packaged snacks will be available for purchase at middle and high school locations.

This year's NEW featured menu highlights include:

- **Nutrition: Game On:** This fall, elementary students will experience our brand-new nutrition education program designed to make healthy habits fun, engaging, and meaningful! Nutrition: Game On turns nutrition education into a year-long adventure where learning about food feels more like a game than a lesson. Each month, students will embark on a new themed “mission” that explores food, movement, and healthy choices through storytelling, activities, and experiences in the cafeteria.

School meals are a reliable way to ensure students get nutritious, balanced meals while reducing food waste and easing the burden of rising grocery costs on families.

Meal Costs & Applications for Free or Reduced-Price Meals

For the 2026-27 school year:

- **Breakfast will cost: Free for all students**
- **Lunch will cost:**
 1. K-5: \$3.25
 2. 6-12: \$3.50

Free or reduced-price meals are available for qualifying students. We encourage *all* families to complete the short, confidential meal application – even if you don't think you qualify – to avoid any gaps in benefits and to support school funding efforts.

Applications can be submitted:

- www.schoolcafe.com

Free Meals for All Students!

For the 2026-27 school year, the state of Pennsylvania has authorized universal free breakfast meals for all students. This means that students can enjoy breakfast at no cost for the entire school year. However, we still encourage families to complete the free and reduced-price meal application. Submit your application online at

Adding Funds to Student Accounts

In addition to their daily meals, kids will have the opportunity to purchase retail and à la carte items in the cafeteria. Please be sure to add funds to your student's account on

www.schoolcafe.com

Food Allergies & Special Dietary Needs

We are committed to safely supporting students with food allergies or medical dietary needs. Our approach includes collaboration among families, school nurses, administrators, and food service staff.

To request meal accommodation:

- Submit a **Medical Statement** signed by a licensed medical provider (physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner).
- The statement must include:
 - Information about the child's impairment that is sufficient for understanding how it restricts the child's diet,
 - An explanation of what must be done to accommodate the child's disability, and
 - If appropriate, the food(s) to be omitted, texture modifications, and recommended substitutions.

Submit the completed form to your school nurse and confirm receipt.

Programs that Encourage Fun and Discovery

We're making school meals fun and educational with programs that promote discovery and lifelong healthy habits:

- **Nutrition: Game On:** Our newest elementary program turns nutrition education into a year-long adventure where learning about food feels more like a game than a lesson.
- **Global Eats:** Explore cuisines from China, India, Italy, Mexico, Korea, and the Caribbean.
- **Discovery Kitchen:** Monthly themes get students cooking, tasting, and learning about nutrition.
- **Student Choice:** Middle and high school students help shape menus and bring trending food concepts to school.

Menus and Nutrition at Your Fingertips

Stay informed with **Nutrislice**, a free app that provides menus, nutrition info, allergen details, and photos. Download from the **App Store or Google Play**, or visit **kcsd.nutrislice.com**

Note: Product substitutions may occur that affect allergens or nutritional content. If substitutions are made, meals may differ from posted menus to ensure safety. While we strive to update Nutrislice in real time, it's best to check directly with the cafeteria manager for allergy-related questions. Please remind your child to speak with cafeteria staff about any food concerns.

We're proud to share our passion for food, discovery, and nutrition with your children. If you have questions, feedback, or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you. Here's to a happy and healthy school year!

Sincerely,

Viet Hoang
Director of Dining Services
Viet.hoang@compass-usa.com
610.444.1373

Carolyn Isakoff
Food Service Coordinator
ciskoff@kcsd.org
610.444.6626

Christian Lagunas
KCSD Food Service Administrative Assistant
clagunas@kcsd.org
610.444.7725