

FOOD SERVICE NEWS 2017-2018

JULY 2017 NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS:

The food service staff will continue to serve the students of Fremont Public Schools with a variety of quality foods throughout this school year. Breakfast and lunch will be offered starting Tuesday, August 29.

On scheduled half days, breakfast will be served but there will be no lunch. On weather delay days, some schools will serve breakfast if there is a need; lunch will be available at the normal times.

Deposits, Histories, and Lunch Applications Online

The food service department's POS cash register system, Meal Magic, allows parents to access their child's accounts, view histories, make credit card deposits, and apply for free or reduced lunches online with a secure internet connection. If you have computer/software problems with either of these services, please call Meal Magic Corporation 1-877-383-3100 and select support.

In order to deposit money online, parents must set-up an account and password. Please go to **sendmoneytoschool.com** and click on the sign-up link, put in your email address and password, and answer any other questions.

You will need to know your student's ID number in order to access his/her account. If you do not know your student's ID number, please call the food service director at 231-924-8160 to get this information.

Once on the website, you can deposit money online by credit/debit card or checking account and view your student's balance and history. All deposits will be received into your child's account within 15 minutes, and you can make deposits for more than one child using only one transaction.

There is no minimum deposit, but there is a base fee of \$2.65 for credit cards and an ACH fee of \$1 per transaction for all deposits made online. A bonus amount of six percent will be deposited into your child's account for any deposits of \$100 or more per child, which would offset the online service fee.

Apply for free and reduced price meals on line by going to **www.LunchApp.com**, select Fremont Public Schools, and answer the questions. When using this site, you will no longer need to send in the paper application and, in most cases, your approval will be in one business day or less. Documentation of your income may still be requested during the verification period.

Computerized Prepaid Breakfasts & Lunches – How Does It Work?

Students who were eligible for free and reduced price meals last May will automatically qualify for the same meal program benefits until September 30. During the month of September, a new

application must be filled out and approved. This year the school district is requiring “all” families to complete a family lunch application. This allows the school district to receive funding for a variety of grants and programs. An application is included in this newsletter, and is available at all schools, and available on line at www.LunchApp.com, please fill one out as soon as possible. If a new application is not received by September 30, students will be charged for full priced meals.

All students should be listed on one family application. The application has been updated, so please read the instructions carefully and fill out the application completely. If a new application is not filled out and approved, students will be charged full price meals as of October 1.

Fremont Public Schools Food Service Department operates with computerized cash registers in all schools. This computer system operates on the same database as the Skyward school student database and therefore names, addresses, grades, etc. will be accurate per the school office.

Lunch balances, whether positive or negative, will also be carried forward to the next grade and school.

“Overdue” slips were sent home with the elementary students several times at the end of the school year to let you know your child’s balance. If you would like to know your child’s balance at any time, you can call 231-924-8160. Pink “overdue” slips will be sent out to all elementary parents on Thursdays during the school year to keep you informed of your child’s balance. Please watch for these slips in your elementary student’s school bag. Middle and high school students will be verbally reminded when their balance is low or overdrawn. If you have an email address on file, overdue or low balance notification reminders will be sent weekly to your email address.

The computerized cash registers operate on a “prepayment debit” system, not a “charging” system. Students/parents should deposit a lump sum into their child/children’s account to purchase breakfasts, lunches, or ala carte items. To promote a larger prepayment amount, the Food Service Department will offer parents a “6% BONUS” for any deposits of **\$100 or more** per student. This bonus amount will be added directly into your child’s account. On line credit/debit card and checking account deposits can be made at www.sendmoneytoschool.com.

All money for student meals must be sent in an envelope with the student name, ID number and amount deposited written on the outside of the envelope so the cashier can correctly deposit it. Family deposits can be made in one envelope/check as long as it is clear how much money is to be deposited for each child. Checks are recommended, and you can include the student ID number in the memo section. For all cash deposits, the envelope acts as a receipt for the deposit. Lunch envelopes are available in each school office, cafeteria, and in many classrooms.

As a courtesy to parents and students, the students may be allowed to charge occasionally, but repayment is expected promptly. Reminder notes and phone calls will be made frequently to remind parents that their child owes money. Once a child owes \$15 or more, the principal or secretary will be contacting the parents regarding the debt. If the debt is not paid promptly, the principal will periodically notify the parents that the child will not be able to participate in a school activity such as a field trip, party, dance, field day, etc. until the food service debt is paid.

Detailed student meal histories are available through the computer system and online by setting up an account at www.sendmoneytoschool.com. Parents and students are expected to keep track of their student balances or call the food service cashier in your child's building if you are unsure of the current balance. Elementary students with a negative balance of \$1 or more will receive a pink "overdue slip" each Thursday to take home. This slip explains the procedure in place for handling negative accounts and lists all building cashier's phone numbers.

If you have any question regarding the food service program or student balances, please contact John Rosenberg, Director of Food Services at 231-924-8160.

Food Service Substitute Job Openings

Each year, a new food service sub list is compiled. Any parents, grandparents or friends interested in helping out in the lunch room during serving times as a paid substitute, please contact John Rosenberg, Director of Food Services, at 231-924-8160. These jobs will normally be three hours per day between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The rate of pay will be the current minimum wage.

2017-18 MEAL PRICES:

- Breakfast – elementary \$1.35
- Breakfast – MS/HS \$1.50
- Elementary Lunch (PK-5) \$2.00
Pine, Daycare, Pre-school
- NCRESA Activity Center \$2.25
- Secondary Lunch (6-15) \$2.50 and \$3.25
- Milk – all schools \$.50
- Adults \$.75 more than the student meal

Daily Breakfast Options

A large variety of breakfast items are offered each day. Hot breakfast items are offered once or twice a week, along with a large variety of prepackaged cereals, other bread items like muffins, cinnamon roll, cereal bar, yogurt, cheese stick, variety of fresh and canned fruits, and milk. **A fruit or juice is required for a complete breakfast this year.** We encourage your child(ren) to eat a school breakfast to start their day.

Daily Lunch Options

Most parents have no idea what food options their child may have during lunchtime at Fremont Public Schools. Unless a parent has visited the lunchroom, it is difficult to realize the variety of foods offered to your child each day.

If you have an elementary student you may see a menu come home each month with the main entrees, a vegetable and assorted fruits listed. However, this is not all that is offered to them.

If you have a middle or high school student menus are posted several places in the schools and extra menus are available in the office or from the kitchen to take home. The monthly menus are

also posted on the school's Internet web page at www.fremont.net under the District Tab then **Food Service Menus**.

The following is a summary of what your child is offered each day.

GRADES PRESCHOOL - 5 (PINE, PATHFINDER, & DAISY BROOK)

These schools follow the basic elementary menu of three main entrée choices each day for \$2.00. However, along with the listed menu items, students are offered two vegetable choices, four to five fruit choices, and chocolate and/or white milk. Desserts or extra items are offered occasionally. **A fruit or vegetable is required for a complete lunch.**

GRADES 6 - 8 (FREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL)

The Food Service Department offers your middle school child at least five choices daily for a nutritious balanced school lunch.

MAIN STREET – regular lunch line for \$2.50 – Student lunch includes choice of pizza, sandwiches, premade salads, and 2 other hot items each day. Students also have a choice of vegetables, lettuce salad, numerous fruit/juices, milk and sometimes dessert. Prepayment is required for this line. Deposits of \$100 or more qualify for a 6% bonus added to the student's account.

SIDE STREET – Most meals \$2.50, Wednesday subs are \$3.25 must include a Fruit or Vegetable – This line will offer a regular food bar lunch at least twice a week, such as Mon. – Mexican style; Tues. – pizza; Wed. – Subway and Lunch Pail subs \$3.25; Thurs. – Pizza; Fri. - Arby's and chicken fries. Students will also have the choice of vegetables, fruits, milk and sometimes dessert. Prepayment into a student's account is required for this line.

THE ALLEY – regular lunch and ala carte items - Two main items with fruit or vegetable will be offered to qualify for a school lunch for \$2.50. Hot lunch items may include Bosco cheese breadsticks, chicken products, and sandwiches, as well as fresh and canned fruits and salads. Other items like pretzels, cookies, string cheese, yogurt, snack items, various drinks, and some ice cream products are offered daily at ala carte prices. Students may pay cash or use their computer account for this line.

GRADES 9-12 (HIGH SCHOOL)

The high school lunch options are varied and exciting and have been well received. Students will have five separate stations of a variety of foods to choose from. Prepayment of lunch money is encouraged and speeds up service on all lines. Only one cashier line will accept cash; all other lines will require prepayment. **Deposits of \$100 or more qualify for a 6% bonus added to the student's account.**

#1 – HOMETOWN SPECIALS – regular lunch line for \$2.50, must include a fruit or vegetable – Price includes choice of 2-3 hot entrees, cold sandwiches/wraps, vegetables, lettuce salad, canned and fresh fruit, additional bread, milk and sometimes dessert. A stop at the "Fresh

Express” station is also included but **does not** include the meat & cheese items. These extra protein items will be charged .50 - \$1.00. Extra French Fries taken from other food lines will be charged 75 cents.

#2 –BUFFET WORLD – complete lunch \$3, must include a fruit or vegetable – This line will offer a partially self-serve buffet station. Possible options will include a Pasta Bar, Sub Bar, Tex/Mex Bar, Hamburger Bar, and an Asian Bar. Topping choices will be self-serve, along with vegetables, salads, canned and fresh fruit choices, and milk. A stop at the “Fresh Express” station is also included but **does not** include the meat & cheese items. These extra protein items will be charged .50 - \$1.00. Extra French Fries taken from other food lines will be charged 75 cents.

#3 – FRESH EXPRESS - complete salad bar lunch \$3, includes all offerings. A lettuce salad included on your tray with lunch from other stations is **free, but meat and cheese items are not included**. Meat & cheese items will be charged .50 - \$1.00 each. This station will offer a romaine salad mix, meat toppings, fresh fruit, vegetable items, and many salad toppings. A variety of prepackaged dressings will be available; extra dressings are 50 cents.

#4 – CRUST N STUFF – complete lunch \$2.50 - \$3.25, must include a fruit or vegetable – This station will offer a variety of local vendor products, such as pizza, subway and lunch box subs, and Arby’s sandwiches. French fries, canned and fresh fruit choices, and milk are included in this meal. A stop at the “Fresh Express” station is also included but **does not** include the meat & cheese items. Extra protein items will be charged .50 - \$1.00.

#5 – PACKER ALLEY – complete lunch \$2.50, must include a fruit or vegetable – This station will offer Bosco Breadsticks, cheeseburger and/or a chicken sandwich lunch each day. French fries, lettuce salad, canned and fresh fruit choices, and milk are included in this meal. Other items offered at ala carte prices will be pretzels, drinks, snacks, and ice cream products.

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE: If you want to ensure that your child is spending their allotted money on a balanced lunch and not on ala carte items, it is highly recommended that you prepay for lunches and indicate on your check or write a note stating your preference. The computer can be coded with your wishes and prevent your child from spending his/her lunch money on other items of less nutritional value. **Deposits of \$100 or more qualify for a 6% bonus added to their account.**

Letter to Parents Regarding Free and Reduced Meals

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn and Fremont Public Schools offers breakfast and lunch meals every school day. Students may buy elementary lunch for \$2.00, MS & HS lunch for \$2.50 – 3.25, and elem breakfasts for \$1.35, MS/HS breakfast has been raised to \$1.50 due to the variety of items offered.

Your child(ren) may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. We sell reduced price lunches for 40 cents and reduced breakfasts for 30 cents.

If a doctor has determined that your child has a disability, and the disability would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make any substitution prescribed by a licensed physician at no extra charge. The physician's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted in writing to the food service department at your school. For further information, please call John Rosenberg @ (231) 924-8160.

1. Do I need to fill out an application for each child? No. Complete one Free and Reduced School Meals Family Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all the required information. Return the completed application to: John Rosenberg, Fremont Middle School, 500 Woodrow Street, Fremont, MI 49412 or apply on line at www.LunchApp.com.

2. Who can get free meals? Children in households getting Food Assistance Program (FAP), Family Independence Program (FIP), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) can get free meals regardless of your income. Also your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines included in this newsletter and application.

3. Can foster children get free meals? Yes, foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income. List foster children on the family application, a separate application is not needed, just check the Foster Child Box next to the student's name.

4. Can homeless, runaway, and migrant children get free meals? Yes, children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. Please fill out an application or call Tracy Sanchez at 231-924-0470, the homeless and migrant liaison, to see if your child(ren) qualify.

5. Who can get reduced meals? Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Guidelines included in this newsletter and on the application.

6. Should I fill out an application if I got a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free meals? Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the

instructions, generally you do not need to apply if you have received a recent approval letter. Call the school at 231-924-8160 if you have questions.

7. My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out another application this year? Yes, your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few weeks of the current school year. You must send in a new application each year unless the school has informed you that your child has already been approved for the current school year.

8. I get Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Can my child(ren) get free meals? Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. An application including income must be filled out to see if you qualify.

9. Will the information I give be checked? Yes, some applicants may be asked to send written proof of your income during the verification process.

10. If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start receiving FAP, FIP, FDPIR or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

11. What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to:

Bing Hanson
450 E. Pine Street
Fremont, MI 49412
(231-924-2350).

12. May I apply if someone in my household is not a US citizen? Yes, you can. You or your child(ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

13. Who should I include as members of my household? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of the expenses) do not include them.

14. What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if it is occasional extra income. If you lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

15. We are in the military; do we include our housing allowance as income? If you get an off-base housing allowance, it must be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.

16. What if my child does not have health insurance: Your children may qualify for low cost or free health insurance through MICHild and Healthy Kids Program. To apply online, go to www.michigan.gov/michild or call 1-888-988-6300 for help or to request a paper application.

17. My Spouse is deployed to a combat zone. Is his/her combat pay counted as income? No, if the combat pay is received in addition to his/her basic pay because of his/her deployment and it wasn't received before he/she was deployed, combat pay is not counted as income. Contact your school for more information.

18. My family needs more help? Are there other programs we might apply for? To find out how to apply for Food Assistance Program (FAP) or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-481-4989.

Sincerely,
John Rosenberg
Food Service Director
231-924-8160