

Middleton Schools Cafeteria Program

To: Parents/Guardians
From: Nutrition Services
Date: September 2011

Middleton Public Schools participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). We are required to serve meals that consist of five components: meat/meat alternate, fruit, vegetable, bread/grain and milk and comply with the Dietary Guidelines for Healthy Americans. Our goal is to provide nutritious, affordable and tasty meals to our students, the foodservice staff is dedicated to providing our students and faculty with a pleasurable lunch time experience.

While food costs continue to rise, our lunch prices have remained below average compared to other schools in our area. Lunch prices are being raised to \$2.25.

The School Nutrition Association cost estimates show that an equivalent meal prepared at home, including milk, meat or alternate, grains, and fruits and vegetables, would cost parents \$3.43!

Our cafeteria registers are computerized as part of the Nutrikids Point of sale system. Every student will have their own personal meal account based on their student ID number/ID card. You may get this number by contacting your child's school or the food service department. Students can access their accounts on the PIN pads located at the register. We are assuming that all students will learn their student ID number, but if they forget, we can access it through the register. It is strongly recommended that all students remember their numbers, as this will make the meal lines move faster.

We strongly encourage using the "pre-payment" system. Not only will it help to increase the efficiency and speed of the lunch lines, it will reduce the chance of forgetting lunch money. Deposits can be made in weekly or monthly amounts and the monies are deducted from the account each time your child enters his/her ID number or scans their card at the registers. All money will be collected in the morning and be sent to the cafeteria before lunch. When sending in money by check or cash, please include the student's full name and grade on the check or envelope so it is deposited into the correct account. This system allows students to charge only if there is money in their account. I encourage all families to set up a free account on-line at MyNutrikids.com. You will be able to view your child's purchase history and check your account balance. (If you choose to make payments on-line there is a \$1.75 fee).

If your student has qualified for **free or reduced** price lunch, this information is securely contained within the system and the meal will be processed just as it is for all other students. There is no need to be concerned for a potentially uncomfortable situation for the student. If your child received free or reduced lunches last year, you must reapply by October 1, 2011, in order to ensure that there will be no interruption in service. Forms are available on the Middleton schools web site (www.middletonps.org) or in the school office. Please send forms in as soon as possible.

If you are concerned about a food allergy that your student has, please notify the cafeteria with this information. If your child has a milk/dairy allergy, please contact the cafeteria to make special arrangements at lunch. A la carte milk and juice (request only) are available for \$0.60, Bottled water \$0.65

Snacks are available for students in grade 2 - 6 from October through May. If you **do not** allow your child to use their account to purchase snacks, please notify the cafeteria in *writing*.

Thank you in advance for your participation in our school lunch program.

Sincerely,

Tynne R. Sweeney
School Nutrition Director

FEATURES OF THE COMPUTERIZED SYSTEM

Benefits for Parents and Students

- When the account is prepaid you can be sure that your student is only using that money for nutritious lunches served in our cafeteria.
- Lunch is defined as a choice of entrée, milk choice, and up to four side dishes available to all students.
- A prepaid account for all students allows parents to deposit money in their student's account, in any amount, at any time, without concerns about giving their student the exact change every morning.
- For those students receiving free or reduced meals, their meals will be rung up as all the other meals are. No one will know whether they are receiving a free or reduced meal or debiting their account, except for the cashier.
- Lunch lines move faster when meals are prepaid, thus providing students extra time to enjoy their lunch period.
- Parents can pay any amount at any time. Students can prepay with cash or parents can send in checks, and students will prepay in the morning before lunch. You are only charged for the lunches that are debited to your student's ID number. All student ID numbers are confidential.
- Pin pads are located at the register; they provide ease of use and allow for quick transactions.
- Prepayment allows for better security rather than cash.
- Once the transaction has been completed, your student will know his/her account balance.
- When student accounts get low, students will be informed at the register of their balance.

PREPAYMENT OPTIONS

- You can send in prepayment monies at any time. We recommend that parents send in checks rather than cash.
- Regular lunches cost \$2.25 and Milk only costs \$.60. Reduced lunches cost \$.40each.
- Checks are to be made payable to Middleton Cafeteria Account.
- When sending a prepayment, please include the student's full name and grade on the face of the check. If you send in cash please indicate on the face of the envelope, student's full name, grade and the student's ID#.
- We are also excited to provide parents a convenient, easy and secure online prepayment service to deposit money into your child's school meal account at any time. This service also provides parents the ability to view your child's account balance through a web site called www.MyNutrikids.com.

**If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the office of Food Service Department.
978 750 4756**