



Austintown Local Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our cafeteria has implemented a biometric finger scanning identification system in an effort to enhance the lunchroom experience. The system will allow our students to get through the lunch line faster and give our students more time to eat and socialize. It will also provide an easy and accurate way to identify students and be sure students don't use the wrong account. Austintown Elementary School and Intermediate school will be using this system.

What is Biometric Identification?

Biometric identification is an automated method of identifying a person based upon physical characteristics. Our school has selected the identiMetrics Biometric Finger Scanning Identification System because it is secure, accurate, and non-intrusive.

How does finger scanning identification work?

Using a finger scanner, the software scans certain unique points on the finger to create and store individual templates that identify each student. When the student returns, the software again scans the finger and looks for a match in the database. When a match is found, the student is identified.

What about our students' privacy?

We are not fingerprinting the students. The software scans the finger for identification. It does not store a copy of the fingerprints. Instead, the software creates a template of the unique points on the finger. The template is converted to a unique number and is stored in the school's database with the same high level of security of all of our records. The templates are also protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA is the same Federal Law that protects all student records. When your child graduates or is no longer enrolled in the school system, the templates are deleted. At no time is a fingerprint image stored. No fingerprints can be recreated or delivered to any agency - governmental or otherwise.

Thanks for your attention!

It is important to us that your child's experiences in school and the lunchroom is rewarding. This new way of identifying our students is safe, easy, accurate, efficient and secure. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Alexis Weber, RDN
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