



## St. Michael – Albertville Independent School District 885

*Excellence is Our Tradition*

St. Michael-Albertville food service is proud to offer students high quality and nutritious meals daily. We are required to plan our menus in accordance with guidelines set by the United States Department of Agriculture. (USDA) It is the goal of our food service staff to strive for excellent service and customer satisfaction. We look forward to serving your family during the school year.

### **2017-2018 Application for Free/Reduced-Priced Meals**

A **new** application **must** be submitted each year. You are encouraged to complete and return your **new** application as soon as possible. You will be responsible for providing a cold lunch or money for a hot lunch for your student until, and if, your family is approved for benefits.

### **Lactose Intolerance/Milk Substitutions**

We must provide lactose-free milk to students who are lactose intolerant who participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Afterschool Care Program (ASCP), Special Milk Program and Minnesota Kindergarten Milk Program. Request for soy, water, juice (fruit or vegetable) will not be provided because they do not meet the nutritional guidelines established by the USDA. Students may purchase these items for an additional ala carte price. If you are interested in lactose free milk, please fill out the lactose free milk request form located on our District Webpage under Food & Nutrition. Please return the form to your school nurse.

### **Food Allergies/Special Diets**

If your child has **life threatening food** allergies, please contact your school nurse before your child eats lunch, and refer to the Food Allergy and Intolerance letter. If your child has food intolerances, please refer to the Food Allergies & Intolerances letter for more information. This information is located on our district website at [www.stma.k12.mn.us](http://www.stma.k12.mn.us) under Food and Nutrition.

### **Pre-Payment Options and View Lunch Accounts**

We are excited to provide you with a convenient and secure online payment service called **mySchoolBucks**. This website allows you to deposit money at no charge directly into your student's lunch account and view balance/purchase information for the past ninety days. You can also set up e-mail reminders when your student's balances become low. Online payments are credited to the account within the hour made unless they are made during the meal service time. If made during meal service time they will then be credited after meal service is done. More information regarding **mySchoolBucks** system may be found on the district's website under Food & Nutrition.

### **Send Check or Cash**

**Elementary School Sites** – Payments may be sent with the student and given to their classroom teacher or dropped off at the school kitchen.

**Middle School and High School Sites** – Payments may be place in lunch deposit boxes which are locked and available in the hallway(s) and cafeterias at all sites or dropped off at the school kitchen.

To assure proper placement of payment to the correct account please include your **student's full name and ID number on the check or envelope if submitting cash**. The deposits must be received before 10:00 a.m. to be recorded that day.

### **Lunch Prices for the 2017-2018 School Year**

Kindergarten-Grade 4	\$2.50	Sibling Guest	\$3.85	Reduced priced meals	No Charge
Grade 5-Grade 12	\$2.65	Adult Guest/Staff	\$3.85	Extra Milk/Milk Only	\$0.45

**School lunch menus are posted on the district's website at [www.stma.k12.mn.us](http://www.stma.k12.mn.us) under Food and Nutrition.**

### **Ala Carte and Seconds**

Ala Carte purchases at all sites will be charged directly to the student's lunch account. *It is your responsibility* to discuss the dollar amount that you are allowing your child to use to purchase lunches or ala carte each day. Ala carte offerings in the elementary and secondary sites are in compliance with School District Wellness Policy #553, and USDA Smart Snack Standards.

**Elementary Sites** offer water, 100% juice and milk as ala carte items and may be purchased on their first time through the lunch line. Fourth grade students may also purchase a second entrée for \$1.50 or additional side items for \$.50 each but must make a second trip to the lunch line for these purchases.

**Middle School and High School Sites** offer a variety of ala carte items ranging in prices. Students may also purchase a second entrée for \$1.50 or additional side items for \$.50 each.

### **Offer Versus Serve**

Offer versus serve or OVS is a concept that applies to menu planning and the meal served. OVS allows students to decline some of the food offered in a reimbursable lunch. The goal of OVS is to reduce food waste and to permit students to choose the foods they want to eat. With students choosing which foods to take and which to pass on, guidance is provided to the students on that constitutes a reimbursable lunch. We encourage you to review the school lunch menu with your children to help them decide what to select. If there is an unfamiliar or unpopular food item on the menu, children are encouraged to try a smaller serving rather than refuse it totally, thus introducing them to new foods.

### **Charging Lunches Not Allowed**

School District 885 Policy #730 states, "Students will not be allowed to charge a meal at any time." Students, parents or guardians in grades K-12 will be given verbal *or* written notification when their lunch account balance is \$5.00 or less. If a student's account balance is at \$0.00 or a negative balance, they will be offered a cheese sandwich, fresh fruit, fresh vegetable and milk. Lunch transactions and balances may be viewed on *mySchoolBucks* under Food Service and Nutrition section of the district's website.

### **Balances at the End of the School Year**

At the end of the school year, if there is a positive balance in your child's lunch account and they are a graduating senior or do not plan to return to District 885 schools in the fall, please notify us. We will either transfer the balance to a sibling's account for the following year or issue a refund. Call Tammy Beack at 763-497-3180 ext. 95128 for more information.

### **Tips for Parents / Guardians**

- Remind children to ask for their balance while in the lunch line.
- Students will be reminded when balances are \$5.00 or less.
- If a student prefers, their hand will be stamped when they have a low balance.
- Check mySchoolBucks under Food Service and Nutrition section of the district's website for lunch account information.

It is the goal of all Food Service staff to strive for excellent service and customer satisfaction. If you or your children have any questions or suggestions, please call the Food Service Department at 763-497-3180.