

Hingham Public Schools School Nutrition Program

Welcome to Hingham Food Service! We strive for balance in our program of health, fun, and yumminess. We offer balanced meals to the children in Hingham in a variety of ways. Some favorites amongst the students are the pretzel meal, brunch for lunch, and chicken nuggets!

Our program is an extension of the healthy lifestyle foundation that students get at home. Food Service reinforces what a balanced meal looks, smells, and tastes like. On a weekly basis students are served a rainbow of produce including red, orange, dark green, legumes, and other veggies which come in a variety of colors. We serve whole grain rich foods, down to the breading on the nuggets. Food Service uses healthy cooking methods such as baking, roasting, and steaming. Nothing is ever fried! Fresh whole fruit is always an option for students. So long as a student purchases a school lunch they are always welcome to come back for seconds on fruits and vegetables. Students can even purchase fruit or vegetables separately for \$.50. We encourage students to take and try it all.

Modern family life is super busy. Children in this community are very busy with activities and everyday life is a juggling act. To make managing school lunch easier, Food Service has an online payment option through [Schoolcafe.com](https://www.schoolcafe.com) with features like low balance alerts, automatic payments, and purchase history.

[Schoolcafe.com](https://www.schoolcafe.com) is also the place you can find the online application to apply for free or reduced school lunch. If your family is struggling financially apply on [Schoolcafe.com](https://www.schoolcafe.com) to see if you qualify. Hard copies are available in the principal's office and we are happy to mail one if needed. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for assistance with the application. Worrying about money can be stressful. This program is completely anonymous, and may help to alleviate a little of that burden. Student's eligibility is completely anonymous and automatic through the point of sale system.

School lunch menus are done on a monthly basis. Please be sure your e-mail address is up to date in the student portal. We send a monthly newsletter with a link to our website for the menus.

If your child has special dietary needs and would like to participate in the school lunch program, please don't hesitate to contact the Food Service Department. We offer a gluten free menu in addition to our regular menu, and we are happy to accommodate students with other dietary needs. Any special meal needs to be ordered with the cafeteria manager by 9 am. This gives us the time to be sure that your child will have a lunch that is safe and delicious. Our managers' contact information is available on our website.

The food service program is growing and evolving. It is better now than it was last year and every year we strive to improve and meet the needs of the children in Hingham Schools.

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To make things easier for you, here are answers to our **Frequently Asked Questions:**

- 1) Student pin numbers are the same year to year and school to school so long as they are in the district. At the beginning of the school year, an e-mail is sent out to all families providing students' ID numbers and pin numbers.
- 2) Students balances carry over year to year.
- 3) Students can use their school lunch account for anything in the cafeteria.
- 4) Student accounts should not have negative balances.
- 5) Schoolcafe.com is the portal to your child's school lunch account. It gives you access to see account history and balances. Schoolcafe.com also has features like low balance alerts and automatic payments. There is a fee attached to make a payment online with a credit card. We are happy to process cash or checks at the schools for no fee.
- 6) Checks should be made payable to **HPS Foodservice. Please put your child's full name and homeroom on the check.** It is also helpful to put it in an envelope marked "School Lunch."
- 7) The Food Service Director, Kim, can transfer money from one account to another so long as the student is in the same family and she has it in writing. Please e-mail Kim the transfer information at ksmyth@hinghamschools.org.
- 8) "Low Balance Alerts" must be set up on Schoolcafe.com. It is not an automatic feature.
- 9) If you have set up an automatic payment with Schoolcafe.com they must be renewed year to year. **Tip:** A low balance alert will send you an e-mail if something went wrong with the automatic payment.
- 10) So long as your e-mail information is current on the student portal you will never miss out on the fabulous monthly e-mail blasts that contain tidbits of information about school lunch.

Families are very busy and the convenience and tools that Schoolcafe.com provides makes family life much easier. Who wants more stress on another thing to manage? Let Schoolcafe.com do the work for you. It is a "set it" and forget it type of thing.

If you would like any more information, please visit us on the district website at <https://hinghamschools.com/school-administration/food-services/>. You can also see what we are doing on Facebook (Hingham Public Schools Food Service Department) and on Instagram @HPSFoodie

Questions? Please contact us:

Food Service Director, Kim Smyth at ksmyth@hinghamschools.org
Assistant Food Service Director, Annabelle Ho at aho@hinghamschools.org