



July 3, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Marquardt District 15 is pleased to announce that we will be able to provide all students a healthy school breakfast and lunch at NO CHARGE for the 2017-2018 school year. The District has been provided the opportunity to be part of the federally funded Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) as part of the National School Lunch Program.

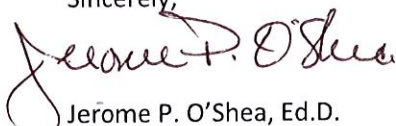
All students enrolled at Black Hawk, Hall, Reskin, Winnebago Elementary Schools, as well as Marquardt Middle School, have the choice to receive a healthy and well balanced breakfast and lunch at no charge. No sign-up or further action is required of you.

- Children attending Black Hawk, Hall, Reskin, and Winnebago Schools will need to place their lunch order with their teacher each morning. Students in grades K-5 are welcome to eat a school breakfast and students in grades 1-5 are able to eat a school lunch.
- Children attending Marquardt Middle School just need to go thru breakfast/lunch line. There is no pre-order required.

Your child(ren) will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a meal application.

For further information about CEP and our meal program, please review the attached FAQ. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 630-469-7615.

Sincerely,

  
Jerome P. O'Shea, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

  
Sandy Voss, MS, RD, SNS  
Director of Food & Nutrition Services

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)**

Q. **What is the Community Eligibility Provision or CEP Program?**

A. The Community Eligibility Provision or CEP Program is a provision from the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 that allows schools and local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide breakfast and lunch to all students at NO CHARGE.

Q. **When can my child start eating school meals at no charge?**

A. Lunch service begins the first day of school (August 21, 2017). Breakfast service begins the second day of school (August 22, 2017).

Q. **My child is in Kindergarten, can they eat breakfast and lunch at school?**

A. All enrolled AM Kindergarten students are welcome to eat school breakfast. Kindergarten students are not eligible to eat lunch at school.

Q. **What is offered as a school meal at no charge?**

A. *Elementary Breakfast:* Breakfast Pack, ½ cup of fruit, and milk.

*Elementary Lunch:* Entrée' (choice of hot or cold lunch entrée's), up to three fruit/vegetable sides, and a milk

*Marquardt Middle School Breakfast:* Entrée (hot or cold selections available) ½ cup of fruit, and milk.

*Marquardt Middle School Lunch:* Entrée' (choice of hot or cold lunch entrée's), up to three fruit/vegetable sides, and a milk

Note: Students do not need to take all of the components of the meal.

Q. **Do I still need to fill out a free/reduced price meal application at the beginning of the school year?**

A. No. You no longer need to complete any paperwork to receive free/reduced priced meals. All students can eat at no charge.

Q. **Does my child have to participate in breakfast or lunch at school?**

A. No, participation is strictly voluntary and students may elect to bring a lunch from home. However, students cannot bring breakfast from home. If students are not eating a school breakfast, we encourage them to have breakfast at home before arriving at school.

- Parents can elect to send their children to school with a bag lunch if they choose. If a child has a lunch from home, they are welcome to select a fruit, vegetable and milk to have along with their home lunch at no charge.
- There will be optional smart snack items (baked chips, cookies, water, etc.) for sale at Marquardt Middle School only. Students and parents can deposit money on their account for these "extra" items or pay with cash, check or money already deposited on their account

Q. **Can my child receive milk only, if they bring a lunch from home?**

A. Yes, if a child has a lunch from home, they are welcome to receive a milk at no charge. We will encourage all students receiving milk only to also take a fruit and vegetable.



**Q. Tell me more about school meals?**

A. All meals meet and exceed the USDA mandated requirements and align with the USDA Dietary Guidelines. Breakfast and lunch menus are planned by a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist and student taste testing is conducted with students yearly. Balanced nutrition is a vital part of a student's growth and development and the Food & Nutrition Services Department is dedicated to provide safe and nutritious meals that fuel the minds and bodies of our students to prepare them to learn at their optimal level in the classroom.

To learn more about our meals, please visit our website at [www.d15foodandnutrition.us](http://www.d15foodandnutrition.us) for menu and nutrition information. Printed menus will be sent home the first week of school with all students.

**Q. How are the meals being paid for?**

A. The federal government provides reimbursement to Marquardt District 15 for every breakfast and lunch served to help cover the costs of the food provided.

**Q. Will registration fees or taxes be increased?**

A. No. This program is a federally funded program and will not impact tax rates or registration fees at the beginning of the school year.

**Q. Do I have to pay the required fees?**

A. In the past, if a family qualified for free or reduced meals you did not have to pay fees. Those families that are directly certified will receive a letter at the beginning of August that states you do NOT have to pay fees. For families that had filled out a free/reduced meal application in the past, you will need to complete a fee waiver form and it will be processed to determine if you are eligible to have the fees waived. Fee waiver applications are available on our website at [www.d15.us](http://www.d15.us) or at your child's school office at the beginning of August.

**Q. If I currently have money on my child's account, how will it be returned to me, or will my child at Marquardt Middle School be able to use it to purchase smart snack items?**

A. You have the option to fill out the Food Service Account Refund/Transfer Form to either receive a refund or transfer money to a sibling account at Marquardt Middle School where they may use the money to purchase smart snacks. The form can be found on our website click on the Food Services link and it will be listed under the Account Refund/Transfer link.

**Q. Will I still be able to access my child's account online?**

A. Yes. The District will continue to use [www.mymealtime.com](http://www.mymealtime.com) for parents to access their child's account information. If you have not used this site in the past to monitor your child's account and would like to, please contact the Food & Nutrition Services Department for your child's ID.