



August 1, 2018

Dear Parent,

This is to advise you of the school meal prices for paid students for this upcoming school year. Prices for meals are as follows:

Elementary Breakfast	\$ 1.50	Middle/High Breakfast	\$ 1.75
Elementary Lunch	\$ 2.75	Middle/High Lunch	\$ 3.00
Reduced-Price Breakfast	\$ 0.30	Reduced-Price Lunch	\$ 0.40
Student Milk	\$0.50		

Meal prices for this coming school year remain the same as last year. The meal price structure was reviewed per federal requirement and changes were not needed. Meal prices for paid meals need to be periodically adjusted in order to ensure that paid meals are offered at a fair price in comparison to costs for free and reduced priced meals.

Families of free and reduced-price students are also reminded that it is very important to complete meal applications prior to the start of school when possible. Only one application needs to be filled out per family, please included all children on the application. A new application must be completed each year and applications are accepted all year. Please complete forms accurately and legibly. Applications for the 2018 – 2019 school year will be available on the website during the summer and at each school prior to September. Families of free and reduced-price students are responsible for all meal charges until meal applications are approved and the status of children is determined. This process may take up to two weeks. Any meal charges incurred prior to eligibility determination must be paid by the family as status cannot be made retroactive.

Each student will have his or her own cafeteria account. Families of paid students may pay in several ways. Account money can be used for food service purchases only. Student meals can be paid by cash daily for each meal or in advance with a larger deposit to cover meals for a period of time. Similarly, meals can also be paid for by a check made payable to “Bloomfield School Food Service”. Please include the student identification number on any checks. Student identification numbers are provided by the school. Change is not given for any checks tendered. There is a \$20.00 insufficient fund fee in addition to any bank fees for bounced checks. Cash or checks should be sent to the cafeteria charge person at each school.

A third option is through the on-line payment system MySchoolBucks. You can connect to this program from the Bloomfield Schools website under the Food Service section or you can go directly to www.MySchoolBucks.com. The student identification number and the student birth date are needed to enroll in the program. Please note that there is a 4.5% fee for each deposit that is made using a credit or debit card. Heartland is again this year offering a new payment option of paying by electronic check. MySchoolBucks.com may also be used free of charge to check account balance(s), set up email notification of a low balance, monitor what students have eaten or put limits on their accounts.

Families of students who are approved via Direct Certification from the State of Connecticut will be notified of the free meal status eligibility by the Food Service Department. Applications do not need to be completed for this.

This is a reminder that in Bloomfield Public Schools, the School Breakfast Program is available to ALL students every morning. Your child can eat breakfast at school every day or only occasionally. School breakfast makes good sense. Please have your child take advantage of breakfast here at school. Breakfast costs for full-pay students are \$1.50 for elementary students and \$1.75 for middle and high school students. Breakfast is \$0.30 for qualified reduced price students and free for those students who qualify. Breakfast menus will be posted at each school.



Thank you for helping us to make sure that all of our students start the school day alert, well-fed and ready to learn.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Pinkham

Susan A. Pinkham, MS, RD, CD-N
Food Service Director
Bloomfield Public Schools
Carmen Arace School
390 Park Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002
860-769-4209

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;*
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or*
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

James Thompson, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

A new application for the 2018-2019 school year must be sent to the Food Service Department for processing by Friday, September 28, 2018. Meal status eligibility is carried over from the previous year through Monday, October 15th. Meal status will be changed to PAID after this time if no new application is sent or if it sent late (time must be allowed for processing). Families are responsible for payment for all meals until meal status eligibility for the current year is determined. Any meal charges incurred as a result of delayed or no completed application will be due and are not creditable once a new determination is made.

PROCEDURE FOR CHILDREN WITH NO MONEY 2018 - 2019

On the first day that a student does not have money, Food Service staff will serve a regular breakfast and/or lunch. Students will be asked to bring money the next day.

On the second day that a student does not have money or only the amount owed is returned, Food Service staff will offer a breakfast of whole grain bread and milk and/or a lunch with a cheese sandwich on whole wheat bread and milk. The Food Service staff will provide a "second reminder" note indicating the amount owed, including the cost of the substitute breakfast and/or lunch. This year's cost is \$.45 for breakfast and \$.65 for lunch.

On a weekly basis, Food Service staff will send statements showing the balance owed to parents/guardians. Food Service staff will also call the parent/guardian at the number indicated in the school records and let them know (or leave a detailed message) that a balance is owed. Further, the Food Service Department will provide a list of students with overdue negative balance accounts to each school administration.

If a child has milk/dairy allergies, accommodations will be made based on their letter on file with the school nurse requiring a substitution. Students who bring a meal from home and want to purchase milk but have no funds will be able to purchase milk on the first day and follow the procedure listed above.

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Pay for Student Meals Online

August 1, 2018

Dear Parent,

The Bloomfield Schools Food Service will continue to offer **MySchoolBucks®!** This online payment service provides a quick and easy way to add money to your student's meal account using a credit/debit card or electronic check.

You can also view recent purchases, check balances, and set-up low balance alerts for **FREE!**

MySchoolBucks provides:

- **Convenience** - Available **24/7 on the web** or with the **Mobile App** for your iPhone, Android or Windows phone!
- **Efficiency** - Make payments for all your students, even if they attend different schools within the district. Eliminate the need for your students to take money to school.
- **Control** - Set low balance alerts, view account activity, recurring/automatic payments & more!
- **Flexibility** - Make payments using credit/debit cards and electronic checks.
- **Security** – MySchoolBucks adheres to the highest security standards, including PCI and CISP.

Enrollment is easy!

1. Go to www.MySchoolBucks.com and register for a free account.
2. You will receive a confirmation email with a link to activate your account.
3. Add your students using their school name and student ID.
4. Make a payment to your students' accounts with your credit/debit card or electronic check.

A program fee may apply. You will have the opportunity to review any fees and cancel if you choose, before you are charged.

If you have any questions, contact MySchoolBucks directly:

- parentsupport@myschoolbucks.com
- 1-855-832-5226

Visit myschoolbucks.com and click on Help/FAQ's . Thank you.



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Bloomfield Schools Food Service Department • 390 Park Avenue • Bloomfield, CT 06002 • 860-769-4208 • Fax: 860-286-2627