



Dear Parents:

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our families. Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year!

The Child Nutrition Program operates 25 cafeterias in our school district. The following meal services are available at all 25 sites during the school week:

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Free Afterschool Meals, “Super Snacks”, for students who stay after school

Our mission is to alleviate childhood hunger within our communities and increase student success by providing and promoting a nutritionally balanced diet in a friendly environment.

The Child Nutrition Program does not receive general fund support; the program operates by balancing the budget through meal & a-la-carte sales, and state/federal reimbursement. We participate in the USDA’s National School Breakfast, National School Lunch and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) programs: which are federally funded programs that provide nutritionally balanced, low cost, or free meals to students.

Each school cafeteria has a team of highly trained staff, with food safety and customer service as the highest priority. The Child Nutrition team works together to develop healthy and appetizing meals for students, often gathering ideas from students and parents. Many of the foods are made from scratch using the best ingredients such as low-fat proteins, whole grain pastas, fresh fruits and vegetables, and freshly made bread (using hormone-free milk). The menus are analyzed and recipes adjusted to ensure they meet USDA nutritional guidelines for each age group for calories, sodium, and saturated fat.

Choices and variety are important to students, so our menus are planned to provide options. Each day there will be two to three entrée options at the elementary level and three to four at the high school level.

Lunch is made up of five basic food components: milk, meat or meat alternate, vegetable, fruit, and grain. Students must select at least three of these components for a complete meal (one of which must be a fruit or vegetable).

WHAT’S NEW THIS SCHOOL YEAR?

- **New lunch menu items:** Power Cups, Garden Variety, Chicken Teriyaki Rice Bowl, Totachos, Chicken Parmesan, BBQ Fries, Chicken Potato Bowl, and BBQ Pulled Pork. These are just a few new items added to our tried-and-true menus.
- **Meal Payments:** **NO cash will be accepted beginning this school year. However, checks and money orders will be accepted. Parents are encouraged to create an online meal account at www.myschoolbucks.com.**
- **Meal Status Changes:** We are happy to report Gov. Edwards signed HB 282, which provides free meals to students meeting federal eligibility guidelines for reduced price meals. This bill and program will become effective August 1, 2023, just in time for the 2023-24 school year. What does this mean for you? If your child qualifies for Reduced Priced meals, then your child will

receive free meals during the school year. No more Reduced Priced meals! Meal applications must be submitted to see if your child qualifies.

- **Student Meal Prices for Paying Students:**

Breakfast	\$2.75 (Elem)	\$3.00 (High)
Lunch	\$3.55 (Elem)	\$4.00 (High)

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- Families must complete and submit meal applications to see if their child(ren) qualify for free or reduced meals. Approval is based on the household's income. The 2023-24 online meal application will be available early August 2023. Parents can apply at: <https://www2.myschoolapps.com/Home/PickDistrict> (select Diocese of Baton Rouge Child Nutrition Program for the school district).
- Children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, runaway youth, or children of migrant workers all qualify for free school meals when their household fills out a meal application.
- Children who do not qualify for free or reduced meals may pay full price for a healthy breakfast or lunch at school.
- There are three (3) schools that participate in the "Community Eligibility Provision" (CEP): Redemptorist St Gerard, St Francis Xavier and Mater Dolorosa. Students attending these schools will receive free breakfast and lunch during the 2023-24 school year. No meal applications required.
- Parents are encouraged to setup their child(ren)'s online meal accounts.
- We are sensitive to the various nutritional needs of our students. If your child has any food allergies, please have your child's physician complete the required Diet Prescription Form, which can be found on our website ([https://cnpbr.org/sites/default/files/media/Diet-Prescription-\(rev-06-16\).pdf](https://cnpbr.org/sites/default/files/media/Diet-Prescription-(rev-06-16).pdf)) and contact your school nurse.

We hope that you and your child(ren) have a great year! Please feel free to call our office with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,
Lynda Carville
CNP Director