

Regional School Unit #34 Food Service

Alton, Bradley, & Old Town

April 21, 2021

With just a few weeks left to the school year we are feeling like we might just make it!

The details of our summer program have not yet been finalized, but at this point I believe we will have twelve sites. Our program will begin on July 6th and end on August 13th. Four of those twelve sites will be schools that will be open at least four days/week for five of the six weeks. The remaining sites will include seven open sites (Binette Park, Lincoln Green, Old Town-Orono YMCA, Perkins Park, Pine Haven, Whistle Way, and OTHS Curbside), and KidsPeace, which is closed to the public. We will probably be doing a mixture of daily meal distribution for our school and activity sites (with the additional option of weekend meal packs), and weekly meal distribution for the remote sites that do not have organized activities. This would allow parents the opportunity to continue to pick up meals once each week as they have been doing through the school year and we will not be encouraging children to gather to play at a specific time every day to get lunch. We may be safer with vaccinations, but we are still going to be careful with our kiddos.

Staffing continues to be an issue. We have some truly wonderful people working for us right now, and I am thankful that absenteeism has become much less of a problem lately. The folks that we have on board right now are dependable and wonderful, but we have two openings at OTHS that need to be filled this spring and one at LMS that will need to be filled by fall, if not before.

I received an update from USDA regarding the coming school year... *"Schools nationwide will be allowed to serve meals through USDA's National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option (SSO), which is typically only available during the summer months. This option maintains the nutrition standards of the standard school meal programs – including a strong emphasis on providing fruits and vegetables, fluid milk, whole grains, and sensible calorie levels, while allowing schools to serve free meals to all children. In addition, schools that choose this option will receive higher-than-normal meal reimbursements for every meal they serve, which will support them in serving the most nutritious meals possible while managing increased costs associated with pandemic-related operational and supply chain challenges. This option also affords schools the financial flexibility to further customize their meal service design to fit their local needs."* For the full article you can [click here](#).

There are 12 national waivers that have been updated. Please call or email me if you have questions. Otherwise, I will have more details next month.

Participation: March: 24,215 meals, 23 school days, 31 serving days

Respectfully Submitted,

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