



October 11, 2021

Dear Mesick Parents,

Over the past few months, you may have seen news stories about disruptions in the supply chain across the country, resulting from effects of the pandemic. Industries, including food distribution and school foodservice programs, have been impacted by manufacturing and labor shortages across the country.

At Mesick, students and families can continue to count us for great-tasting meals kids love to eat every day, but there may be times when menu substitution are necessary based on product substitutions we receive from our food and beverages suppliers, which may include menu changes to entrée choices, fruit and vegetable offerings and the flavored milk available to offer students.

Understanding these supply chain challenges will likely continue, we wanted to reach out and let you know we're doing everything we can to proactively address issues. Working in partnership with our suppliers we have implemented some strategies to help minimize the impact to the school foodservice program including the following:

- We have changed our ordering schedules to allow distributors more time to identify new sources for out-of-stock products in the event it occurs.
- We've identified alternate suppliers and products where we found that existing ones wouldn't be able to meet our needs. For example, we learned our previous supplier for pizza dough would not be able to commit to serving our students, so we contracted with a new one.
- We are implementing new ordering strategies to ensure we are giving our distributors enough time to source the products we menu.

Thank you in advance for your support and understanding during this time.