



Medfield Public Schools
Food Service Department
88R South Street
Medfield MA, 02052

Dear Medfield Families,

While the return to school this fall is not what any of us envisioned, I want to assure you that the Medfield Public Schools Nutrition Department is working hard to create a welcoming and safe environment to provide healthy meals for all Medfield Public Schools students. We are so excited to provide our students with nourishing and nutritious meals that will support them both at school and at home.

Here in Medfield we have prided ourselves on serving whole foods and encouraging students to customize meals to their liking with our salad bars and self-serve options. Although this year we may not be able to offer such extensive options, we plan to provide meals your kids will love!

There will be significant changes to the School Nutrition program this fall. In March, when schools closed because of COVID-19, the USDA (the federal agency that oversees the nation's school lunch and breakfast program) allowed all schools in the U.S. to provide meals at no cost to children under the age of 21. On August 31st it was announced that this waiver would be extended to all schools until December 31st. This means all students in the district are able to receive a **free** lunch regardless of their eligibility.

Families should still submit a household application to determine eligibility for free and reduced price school meals in order to qualify for any additional benefits as well as to have a seamless transition when school meals transition back to a paid school lunch program.

In addition, we also encourage families to apply for SNAP benefits. SNAP provides monthly cash benefits (on an EBT card) to purchase groceries for eligible families. To apply for SNAP, visit DTA Connect at <https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/> or call the Project Bread FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333. Families approved for SNAP are directly eligible to receive free meals at school.

We recognize that each school will be operating a bit differently, so our food service operating plan has been customized by school to best accommodate the different age levels of the students in each building. A brief overview of meal service is outlined below. We hope you will bear with us during the first few weeks while our food service staff adjust to our new serving models.

Elementary Schools

Students at the elementary level will be eating in their classrooms.

Students will submit their lunch order at the beginning of their day with their teacher (same process as pre-school closures)

Meals will be delivered to each classroom and distributed by the teachers/teaching aids

Students will be allowed to order milk only if desired and their school lunch account will be charged \$0.50

Middle School

Middle school students will not need to pre-order their lunches

Students will be assigned to one of three lunch periods and may pick up a school lunch (if desired) at one of two pick up locations

Students will take their lunch to go and eat at their assigned eating area

High School

High School students will have a mask break between 9:00-10:00 at which point they will have the opportunity to receive a free breakfast or a snack for purchase

Students will be dismissed from school around 1:20 and may take a free lunch to go if they so choose

All Remote Learners

Meals for remote learners will be available for pick up outside of the High School main entrance between 12:00-1:00pm.

Meals will only be available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. No meal pick up will be available on Wednesdays in order to allow for extensive cleaning at all school buildings.

Children do not need to be present at the time of meal pick up

Multiple days' worth of meals may be picked up, so multiple trips to our pick up site are not necessary

Remote meal service will start on Thursday, September 17th.

If you need any further clarification regarding the lunch process, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Fahy

Director of Food Services

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