

PORTAGE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Home of the Mustangs"

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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<http://portageareasd.org/>

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August 25 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

CAFETERIA SCHOOL LUNCH AND SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

One of the most important factors in a child's learning process is nutrition. We, at the Portage Area School District Cafeteria, strive to provide each child a well-balanced, nutritional, and appetizing school breakfast and lunch. Beginning in the 2016 -2017 school year, our school district has enrolled in a new federal program called Community Eligibility Program or (CEP). Under this new program, every student can receive a **FREE BREAKFAST AND FREE LUNCH**, regardless of income. This program is for students as part of the Healthy Hungry Free Act initiative to provide nutritional meals to all students.

The following is a short summary of how CEP works.

1. All enrolled students at Portage Area School District receive a **Free Breakfast and Free Lunch**.
2. Students still use their student ID number to receive breakfast and lunch.
3. Students will be able to **PURCHASE extra** food or Ala Carte items when & where available.
4. Student(s) can add money in their account to purchase extras, but **NO CHARGE** will be taken for the first lunch or breakfast of any enrolled student. **The first breakfast and/or lunch for each student will be free, regardless of income.**
5. With this program, household applications will not be collected as in past years. We are sending a survey to parents and guardians to collect information for other programs such as E-Rate and Federal Programs (please complete this survey and return to school)
6. Participation is **KEY** to this program. Participation will allow us to extend this program for 4 more years! So please support our district in this worthwhile effort.
7. Students who still wish to pack a lunch can receive **FREE** a grab and go pack lunch supplement consisting of (Fresh fruit, Fresh vegetable, Cold Milk, or Cold juice, mini gram snack , string cheese). So you can still send your child's favorite sandwich and we will provide the rest.

Wellness Program Information

The Portage School District's Wellness Policy was adopted several years ago as directed by the PA Department of Health to combat childhood obesity and juvenile diabetes. As such, vending machines will not be available during school hours. Only drinks such as water, 100% juice, tea, and sports drinks are available to students. The school district's wellness policy is available via the district's web site at <http://www.portageareasd.org/>.

Kindergarten Snack Program Information

Kindergarteners can, of course, participate with all other grades in the regular free breakfast and lunch program. The kindergarten **snack** program, however, is not included in the free program, nor does the school district participate in a free milk program. Parents of kindergarteners can add money in their child's cafeteria account if they want their child to receive a snack, milk, or juice through the kindergarten snack program. If you do not want your child to participate in the Kindergarten Snack Program, please put this in writing to your child's Kindergarten teacher.

Student Account Information

Students are never refused a breakfast or lunch. This year, the first breakfast and lunch is free for every student. Therefore, students **MUST** have a positive balance in their lunch account to make additional purchases. Extra meals and Ala Carte items can only be purchased if the student has a positive lunch account balance. Cashiers inform each student when their account is negative. Notices to students who have negative account balances will be communicated to students by cashiers; parents or guardians will be notified by telephone thru the on call system during the second full week of every month. Issues can be resolved by calling the cafeteria at 736-9636, ext. 1320.

E-rate survey

Included in this mailing is an e-rate survey. Please fill out the survey. The survey provides information for additional school funding which provides computers, books, supplies, and funding for educational courses for students. This survey is completely confidential and is in no way connected to your students cafeteria accounts.

Very truly yours,
John Smithmyer
Portage Area School District
Cafeteria Manager