



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023–2024 CAFETERIA NEWS and MEALS INFORMATION

Children need healthy meals to learn. The Division of Food and Nutrition Services (DFNS) serves more than 21 million meals annually. We support healthy meal options for students and continually explore new ways to enhance the nutritional contribution and student acceptability of meals.

Parents/guardians are responsible for school cafeteria account balances incurred by their student(s). Payment is expected, in cash or through prepayment to the student's school cafeteria account, at the point of sale at the time of purchase, or through an online prepayment system at any time. The cafeteria continues to offer the convenience and flexibility of a computerized cash register system. Depositing funds into a cafeteria account eliminates the need for a child to carry money every day. **All Students now use their MCPS Student Identification Number to access their account** (Schools may also utilize barcodes on student ID cards or elementary meal cards which may be scanned at the register). Any money left on a student's account from the prior school year is available for spending. Pre-payments to a student's account may be made prior to the start of school.

To make a prepayment:

- Use MySchoolBucks.com, an online service to make a prepayment using a credit card. Parents can also check meal account balances, sign up for recurring payments and much more. Go to MySchoolBucks.com to register.
- Complete the form below and include a check or money order payable to the cafeteria. See check acceptance policy below.

To request a refund or a balance transfer for a student no longer enrolled in MCPS, email DFNSHelpDesk@mcpsmd.org

Check Acceptance Policy: Checks used to pay for meals must contain: name, address, phone number and student ID number. Returned checks are subject to recovery for the face value and Maryland State allowed fee of \$25 through an electronic debit or paper draft to the same account. Your payment by check constitutes your acceptance of these terms. If you have any questions concerning our check acceptance policy, please call CHECKredi at 1-800-239-1222.

MCPS Meals Policy

Board Policy JPH, School Food and Nutrition Services Program outlines programs and efforts to address childhood hunger in Montgomery County, meal payment procedures, and the repayment of negative balances incurred by students in the cafeteria. For more information please visit our website.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

MEAL PRICES

- **Breakfast Meal \$1.30**
- **Elementary School Lunch Meal \$2.55**
- **Middle and High School Lunch Meal \$2.80**

Children in Maryland that are approved for reduced-price meals will not be charged the cost of meals.

A LA CARTE FOODS AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE IN ADDITION TO BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

A variety of a la carte items may be available in your student's school cafeteria. All items available for sale follow JPG-RA, Wellness: Physical and Nutritional Health. Specific items vary at each school. For specific information regarding items available at your child's school or to restrict the purchase of a la carte items, please contact your school cafeteria manager.

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEAL APPLICATIONS

Families who meet certain federal income standards are eligible for free or reduced-price meal benefits. All children use their student ID number so confidentiality is maintained and no child is overtly identified as receiving free or reduced-price meals. Households are encouraged to **apply online at MySchoolApps.com as processing times are significantly decreased.** A paper application may also be requested from your child's school. Only one application is needed for all students in a household. A new application must be completed annually.

PLEASE VISIT THESE LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/food-and-nutrition (View menus, nutritional info and more)
- www.MySchoolBucks.com (make prepayments to meal accounts, view account balances and transaction history)
- www.MySchoolApps.com (apply for Free or Reduced-price Meals (FARMS))
- Call 1-800-332-6347 or visit <https://dhs.maryland.gov/> (Info on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), Women, Infant, and Children Program (WIC), and medical programs)

PREPAYMENT FORM

Please make the check payable to your child's school cafeteria (example: Arcola Elementary Cafeteria). Checks used to pay for school meals must contain an address and phone number. Please put your child's first name, last name and Student ID number on the front of the check. This check is for cafeteria purchases ONLY. Please list each student separately and bring payment to the cafeteria manager. Thank You!

Student Name _____ ID Number _____ Amount \$ _____

Student Name _____ ID Number _____ Amount \$ _____

Student Name _____ ID Number _____ Amount \$ _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name _____ Phone Number _____