



Winthrop Public Schools

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Lisa A. Howard
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Pamela Whelan
Food Service Director

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Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

While the start of the school year looks a little different for everyone, I wanted to share with you some good news that schools nationwide received last week. The USDA extended a waiver that allows schools to serve **free breakfast and lunch to ALL students, through 12/31/20**. We are thrilled with this news as it means that we will be able to provide all Winthrop Public School students with nutritious and nourishing food for free that will support them, both in school and at home.

What this means for your family and for Winthrop Public Schools?

- All children, ages 0-18, are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch every school day, at no cost. This option is available for students during remote learning and for students during in-person learning time.
- You may access meals for your children who are remote learners by picking up meals at designated sites in Winthrop (WHS, A.T Cummings School, Winthrop Landing)
- Allow the school to provide your children with meals will save you time and money as we handle all of the preparation and at this point in the school year through December 31, 2020, **the meals are free for ALL students**.

Our school lunch program allows the Winthrop Public Schools to provide the most nourishing and appetizing meals possible for your children. When your children access school meals, federal funds are in turn provided to the district. The more meals we serve, the more funding we receive and in turn allows us to provide a wider variety of food choice and expand our innovative practices (new recipes, frozen take home meals, etc.). If your children have never participated in school meals, please consider trying the program this year!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will the cost of meals change after December 31, 2020?

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has requested that the USDA extend free meals for all students for the **entire** school year. However, as of now, the

USDA has only allowed this through December 31. Therefore, families should still submit a household application to determine eligibility for free and reduced priced school meals for January 1, 2021. Completing the Form will also allow for eligibility determination for any additional benefits as well as ensure a seamless transition when schools move back to a fee-based school lunch program in January 202 should the state waiver end on December 31, 2020.

Important additional information regarding the school lunch program and benefits:

We strongly 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 www.startwithsnap.org or call the Project Bread Food Source Hotline at 1-800-645-8333. If you are unsure whether your family is eligible, the Food Source Hotline can assist you with eligibility questions. Families approved for SNAP are directly eligible to receive free meals at school and do not need to fill out an application for free and reduced priced meals.

What steps do I take if I want meals for my child for the 2020-2021 school year?

School breakfast and lunch is available for all students, free of charge beginning September 16, 2020. To have meals prepared for your child, please click this link (add link to google form) and complete the **SCHOOL LUNCH REQUEST** Form. School lunches will be made and available for pick up, 2 days per week and at 3 separate locations in Winthrop. In completing the Form, you will choose the number of days you would like meals for your child (1-5) and the location in which you or your child will pick up the meals.

What if I can not access the Form to fill out?

Contact food service office at 617-846-5505-x7210 or email mcgrath-laura@aramark.com with your child's name and your concern. Someone from Food Services will get back to you with 1 school day.

Do we have to pick up meals each day of the week during Remote Learning?

No. Meals will be distributed at various locations on two specific days per week, see below.

Mondays: Pick up breakfast and lunch for Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday: Pick up breakfast and lunch for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

What are the locations and times of the meal pick up during Remote Learning?

Option #1: WINTHROP MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

Location: 60 Payson St., (parking lot next to baseball field)

Time(s): MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS:
7:30 AM TO 8:00 AM (only early option) or 10:50 AM TO 12:30 PM

Option #2: A. T. CUMMINGS SCHOOL

Location: Pauline Street entrance (1/2 circle driveway across from fire station)

Time(s) MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 10:50 AM TO 12:30 PM

Option #3 WINTHROP PUBLIC LANDING

Location: 707 Shirley Street (lot next to the Winthrop Yacht Club. Look for WPS School Van).

Time(s): MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 10:50 AM TO 12:30 PM

Do I have to pick up at the school my child attends?

No, when you complete the Form, you will choose where you will be picking up.

Who do I call if I have a question or a concern about meals or access?

Contact food service office at 6127-846-5505-x7210 or email mcgrath-laura@aramark.com with any questions or concerns.

What if I do not know my child's ID (identification number) when attempting to complete the Form?

The Form will allow you to submit without the ID number and the lunch staff will contact your child's principal to inform them of the needed ID # for the completion of the process.

Is there a deadline to fill out the form to access school lunch?

There is no deadline to fill out the access form and it will remain open until further notice and/or updated.

What do I do if I change my mind after a few days or weeks and no longer want breakfast/lunch?

If you decide that you no longer want breakfast or lunch, simply email the food service director at: mcgrath-laura@aramark.com

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the School Lunch Request Form and please contact us if you have any questions. Your children are the reason we do our jobs and we are here to make sure that they are fueled with good food!

Best,

Winthrop Food Service Staff

Pamela A Whelan,
Food Service Director

“The Winthrop Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, gender identity, disability, or homelessness for employment, participation in, admission/access to, or operation and administration of any educational program or activity in the School District”

