

Dear Parents,

August 2021

You want the best for your student, and so do we. While Sodexo has proudly served the West Long Branch School District for the past 25 years, like you, we understand that this year will be different as we continue to move through the current phase of the pandemic. We are looking forward to welcoming the students back and ensuring that they receive meals that will fuel their learning and school experiences.

Similar to last year, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended waivers that allows all students to receive free breakfast and lunches this school year. Meals will be served in a variety of ways to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and cafeteria staff.

Breakfast meal service style – in classroom/grab & go

Lunch meal service style – in classroom/cafeteria/grab and go

- **All Cafeteria Menu's and Nutritional's are posted on the West Long Branch School Site.**
- Grades Prek-8, the students will go through the cafeteria lines and have a **"Grab and Go"** set up as they are selecting pre-wrapped entrees, fruit, vegetables, grains, and milk containers.

Though meals will be free for all students, completion of Free and Reduced Applications is still very important this year. The benefits for your student and the district extend beyond just free or reduced priced meals. Additional benefits may include:

- Reduced registration fees for AP, SAT, and/or ACT tests
- Free or discounted fees to participate in activities
- Qualification for discounted rates associated with college application
- Qualification for discounted rates on internet services
- School funding for counseling services, social workers, and paraprofessionals
- Increased funding to help with class size and technology
- Early childhood education funding
- Qualification for P-EBT benefits

Applications can be completed and submitted through <https://www.payschoolscentral.com>

Additionally, we want you to be aware of a few of the things that we are doing to welcome students back to a safe and healthy school environment. Our approach allows our team to proactively support each level of transition that our schools move through with appropriate tools and techniques that strictly follow local, state, and federal guidelines. These tools will include:

Team Member Health – Staff members will regularly report on their health.

Hand Washing – Staff members will continue to wash hands their frequently, as they always have.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Our foodservice team will wear masks and gloves when preparing food and interacting with our students.

Food Safety – We will eliminate some self-serve options and self-service stations while introducing some new (and always delicious) individually wrapped products.

Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting – We will introduce new, enhanced cleaning procedures. High-touch surfaces and high traffic areas will be cleaned frequently with professional-grade products proven effective against viruses.

Social Distancing Measures – When students eat in our cafeteria, they will find seating, floor markings and other space configurations that promote social distancing. We will also be working closely with the school on the number of students that are in the cafeteria at a single time.

Eating meals with friends at school is an important part of every student’s day. We are committed to serving the healthy, nutritious meals that you expect in a safe, welcoming environment. The road ahead is sure to have twists and turns, but as we navigate it together, we will continue to put the health and safety of your student above all else.

I invite you to reach out to me with any questions. You can reach me, Marybeth Feinberg at 732-222-9300.

Warmest regards and to a Great School Year!!!

Marybeth Feinberg- mary.feinberg@sodexo.com
Food Service Manager