



August 2021

Dear Ann Arbor Public Schools Students, Parents and School Community:

Every Child needs a healthy, filling meal to learn. Chartwells School Dining Services, in partnership with the Ann Arbor School District, offers nutritious breakfasts and lunches each school day, often at a free or reduced price for those who need it. We participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast program (NSLBP), a federally-funded program that helps children receive free or reduced-price meals. Below is some important information about the Food Service program:

**The Michigan Department of Education along with the USDA, have decided to continue Free meals for all students for the 2021-2022 School year. There will be Ala Carte sales such as milk only and extra entrées in the elementary buildings and a variety of drinks, chips, extra entrees etc. in the secondary schools. Ala Carte sales and Second meals will be offered and for purchase only, if your student would like to purchase please send money or add funds to your students SMTS account.**

**Online Payment and child account information:** The website for checking your child's account and making payments is [sendmoneytoschool.com](http://sendmoneytoschool.com). This link will be located on the Ann Arbor Public Schools and Food Service websites. Please understand that your student's balances are housed with the district and that (SMTS) SendMoneyToSchool is just a window into your students account. Your student's account balance is secure with the district.

**Online Free and Reduced-Price Meal application:** The new online Free and Reduced-Price application has been updated and is quick and simple to use. You can find it at <http://www.a2schools.org/Page/8315>. If you need a paper application please call the Food Service Office at 734-994-2265.

**Free and reduced-price meal?** All meals served to AAPS students contain the same fresh and nutritious entrees, sides and drink selections, regardless of ability to pay. The price of the meal is reduced or waived for families based on income, and all families are encouraged to apply.

**1. On-Line Applications:**

We encourage you to apply on-line for the Free or Reduced Price meals. Our on-line service is simple, fast, and free. Now you can use your smart phone or tablet to apply as well. This is the fastest way to apply for meal benefits. The on-line application is available at <http://www.a2schools.org/Page/8315>

**2. Paper Applications:**

If you are unable to apply on-line, please call 734-994-2265. You may return the application via U.S. Mail to Ann Arbor Public Schools Food Service, 601 W. Stadium Blvd. Ann Arbor MI 48103. **OR** you can send it with your child to school. **Please only submit one application per family.**

If you have children in multiple school buildings within AAPS, it is not necessary to apply for each student. All free and reduced-price meal applications are kept confidential per USDA guidelines.

**NEW! Household Information Reports (HIR):** If you have a child that attends one of our CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) schools, MITCHELL, PITTSFIELD, SCARLETT or PATHWAYS, you will need to fill out a Household information report. All children in the above schools will be able to eat both Breakfast and Lunch at no charge. You can find the HIR on our website at <https://www.a2schools.org/Page/8315>. Print and complete the form and send it in with your child to school. If you have children in other schools that may qualify for free or reduced meals, you will also need to fill out a Free and Reduced Meal Application for them. Make sure that you list all family members including the child that is attending a CEP school. Meal Magic is working on an Online HIR. When it is available it will replace the paper copy that is located at the above website.

**Meal Status Letter:** Once your Meal Application is processed or your HIR form, you will receive a letter in the email on file with your child's school indicating the approval status. **BE SURE TO KEEP YOUR AWARD LETTER AS YOU CAN USE IT TO APPLY FOR ATHLETIC AND/OR REC & ED SCHOLARSHIPS.** Your child can also attend after school classes and other Rec & Ed programs for free or reduced costs if qualified. Visit [aareced.com](http://aareced.com) for more information.

For questions or concerns please contact the AAPS Food Service Office at 734-994-2265