

August 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! As the new school year gets underway, we wanted to take a moment and introduce ourselves as the foodservice provider for **South Brunswick School District**. We couldn't be happier to have the opportunity to serve breakfast and lunch to students every day. Over the course of the year, we will be introducing new menu options, gathering feedback, and making other changes to enhance the mealtime experience.

Food Kids Love to Eat

The value of school lunch is top of mind as families continue to experience inflation and growing food costs at home. In addition to giving kids the chance to try new foods and cut back on food waste, school lunch provides students with healthy, balanced, and safe meals at an affordable price, while saving families time and stress.

Meal Cost and Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications

For the 2023-24 school year:	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Max Price Lunch</u>
<i>Elementary schools (preschool- grade 5)</i>	\$2.55	\$3.40	\$4.05
<i>Middle Schools</i>	\$2.80	\$3.60	\$4.30
<i>High School</i>	\$2.95	\$3.65	\$4.55

Free or Reduced-Price Meals are available again this year to students who qualify for these benefits, but all students, regardless of family situations, are encouraged to dine in the cafeteria together.

We encourage all families, regardless of income, to complete and submit a short, confidential school meal application prior to the start of the school year to ensure that there are no gaps in meal benefits for students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Parents or guardians can submit this application online at <https://parents.sbschools.org> or in person at your child's school office. It's an easy and confidential way to ensure your child stays well-nourished at school.

Food Allergies and Special Dietary Needs

We recognize the critical importance of our approach to supporting students and families who manage food allergy issues every day and work closely with the families of students who have food allergies and medical conditions that require a modification to their menu. Our approach involves coordination between parents and guardians, school nurses, school administrators, and food service professionals in the school's/district's food allergy and medical conditions protocol.

If you would like your child to receive meal accommodations for food allergies or a medical condition impacting the diet, please ensure that you submit the required documentation to your child's school nurse and that you receive confirmation from the nurse that documentation has been received and a modification plan is in place.

In order to modify the school meal, we must have a **written Medical Statement on file signed by a licensed medical provider (physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner)**. The statement must identify the following:

- Information about the child's impairment that is sufficient for understanding how it restricts the child's diet,
- An explanation of what must be done to accommodate the child's disability, and If appropriate, the food(s) to be omitted, texture modifications, and recommended substitutions.

As part of our protocol, café managers review food labels for foods used to produce special meals daily. We may encounter situations where product substitutions are made that contain different allergens or have a different nutritional profile than our usual menu items. As a result, we may need to provide a meal that is different than previously identified for students with special dietary needs to ensure that the meal served to them remains in adherence to their needs as outlined in their medical forms.

Menus, Nutrition Facts at Your Fingertips

Through Nutrislice, an innovative app, students, parents and faculty have access to school menus, including nutrition information, allergens and photos. Nutrislice can be downloaded for free from the App store (iOS) or Google Play (Android) and is available on desktop and mobile devices. Menus are also available at <https://sbschools.nutrislice.com/menus>.

Celebrating Our School Lunch Heroes

As kids advance from grade to grade with new classes and different teachers, the dedicated lunch ladies and men in the school cafeteria are often one of the few constants throughout the academic journey. Throughout the school year, these heroes of the cafeteria are dedicated to making mealtime a bright spot in a student's day, ensuring kids throughout the South Brunswick School District enjoy lunch time.

We are always looking for talented individuals to join the dining services team with perks including, family friendly schedules, no night or weekend work, hiring incentives, and more. For more information, visit the www.compassgroupcareers.com website. You can search by our zip code for job postings.

Through sharing our passion for great tasting food, instilling a desire for food discovery, and most importantly, providing nourishing meals, we're excited to continue serving up happy and healthy to your children in the year ahead.

We love hearing from parents, and your feedback is important to us. Please reach out to our team with any questions or comments. We're looking forward to a great school year!

Thank you,
Maureen Cahill
Chartwells School Dining Services
South Brunswick SD
Maureen.cahill@sbschools.org