

MEAL CHARGE POLICY

Meal charge limit to start September 9, 2019

Dear Families,

All students are offered a breakfast and/or lunch every day at school because they need to be nourished in order to be happy, healthy and ready to learn. However, there are times when students forget to bring money for breakfast/lunch or the prepaid funds in their student cafeteria account runs out. Although a full meal will always be offered to the student, **starting September 9, students can only charge up to \$15 in unpaid meals (approximately 3 days of breakfast and lunch charges) before the cafeteria will stop charges and give them an alternative breakfast/lunch at no cost instead.**

As a courtesy, the following procedures are in place to support families and students:

- If you feel your family qualifies for free/reduced meals, Food & Nutrition Services (FNS) will make meal applications available before the school year begins and all school year in the FNS Office. Meal applications can also be filled out online at: www.schoolcafe.com.
- Households that have not qualified for free meals can create a student cafeteria account to make payments easier. Accounts can be created in person with cash or check at the school cafeteria or at the FNS Office on 294 Green Valley Road in Watsonville. Accounts can also be made online at www.schoolcafe.com where parents can manage balances, set up automatic alerts, and add money.
- When a student's cafeteria account balance reaches a negative balance, the FNS Office will notify the household by phone call. Notification will occur daily until the account balance is no longer in the negative. Further notification may include email or a letter to the home. School offices may also follow up on unpaid meal charges.
- The limit for student meal charges will be \$15 per student. This will allow a student to charge a breakfast and lunch for 3 days before they reach the limit. After the limit, students will be given an alternative meal at no cost. The alternative entrée of a cereal with grahams at breakfast or a cheese on wheat bread sandwich at lunch will replace the menu entrée of the day. Students will still be able to choose from all other meal options of fruits, vegetables, and milk to complete the meal.
- Students will not be able to charge a la carte snacks (sold at secondary sites) or a second breakfast/lunch.
- Payment Plans – Families with special circumstances may contact the Food & Nutrition Department to establish a convenient repayment plan.
- Adults are not allowed to charge meal debt. Adults/staff may pay directly to the cafeteria at the school or create an account at www.schoolcafe.com to prepay for meals.

Meal Charge Policy will only apply to Bradley, Mar Vista, Rio Del Mar, Valencia, Linscott, WCSA, PCCS, Aptos Jr, & Aptos High. Students qualifying for free/reduced meals will receive meals at no cost. All remaining PVUSD schools are Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) sites and meals are provided at no cost to all students enrolled.

If you have any questions, please contact the Food & Nutrition Services Department at 831-786-2325, go online at www.pvusdschoolfood.net, or come to our office at 294 Green Valley Road, Watsonville, CA 95076.