

Greetings,

With the 2020-2021 school year fast approaching, the School Nutrition Program would like to share some very important information in regards to how meal service will work for our learners. One of the most important pieces of information for parents to understand is that when school begins, The United States Department of Agriculture will require the School Nutrition Program to revert back to National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) guidelines instead of the Summer Food Service Program guidelines that have been followed since March. We will no longer be able to provide meals to all learners at no cost.

Parents will need to apply for free or reduced meals for their children and the approved meal status is how breakfast and lunch meals will be charged to their children's account. For example if a family is approved for free meals, the meals will be provided at no cost. If a family is approved for reduced priced meals, breakfast will be at no cost and lunch will cost \$0.40 per day. If a family does not qualify for meal assistance their children's accounts will be charged \$1.35 for breakfast and \$2.40 for elementary lunch and \$2.65 for middle and high school lunch.

Please be reminded that the approved meal status that a learner had when they left school in March will be in place for them on the first day of school and can be used for up to the first 30 operating days of the new school year. This 30 day carry over, will provide time for parents to fill out new meal applications for the current school year. We would like to encourage families to apply for meal benefits online by going to the BCPS webpage and looking for the online meal application link. Applying online is the preferred method. Families will receive benefits faster and it will cut down on the amount of paper applications being handled.

School meals will be available for all learners of Bedford County Public Schools including on campus learners and our 100% remote learners. Please refer to the School Nutrition Program Frequently Asked Questions on the Bedford County Public Schools' website for details about how meals will be provided. You should also be able to find answers to other questions you may have in regards to the services provided by the School Nutrition Program.

The School Nutrition Program is dedicated to providing safe and healthy school meals to the learners of Bedford County Public Schools. Some aspects of meal service will be different from what our learners are used to. Please know that much thought has been put into ensuring that the School Nutrition Staff at your child's school can provide a smooth experience during meal service. The information being shared in the FAQ section is subject to change as we assess what works well and what does not. Please check the FAQ section frequently for updates.

The School Nutrition Program looks forward to serving the learners of BCPS. We ask for everyone's patience and understanding as we work through the changes that have been made to meal service in our schools. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Karen Arthur, School Nutrition Supervisor at karthur@bedford.k12.va.us or 586-1045 ext. 10224. Wishing you and your family a safe and happy school year!