



Dear Cheverus Parents/Guardians,

While the start of the school year looks a little different for everyone, I wanted to share with you some good news that schools nationwide received yesterday. The USDA universally extended a waiver that allows schools to serve **FREE lunch to ALL students, through June 2021**. We are thrilled with this news as it means that we will be able to provide all Cheverus students with nutritious and nourishing food for free that will support them, both in school and at home.

What this means for your family and for Cheverus-

- Your children will receive a healthy lunch every school day, at no cost, in a safe and welcoming environment. This applies to students who are attending classes in person as well as virtual classes at home, or a hybrid combination of these models.
- You may pick up lunch for your children who are remote learners at the school cafeteria between 11:30-12:30 daily. Be sure to note this option on your monthly order form.
- It allows Cheverus to provide the most nourishing and appetizing meals possible for your children. When your children eat school meals, it helps the school system by providing federal funds to our educational system. The more meals we serve, the more funding we receive, allowing us to focus on meal quality, variety and innovative practices. If your children have never before participated in school lunch program, consider trying the program this year.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Educations has requested that the USDA extend free meals for all students for the entire year, but that decision has not yet been finalized. However, as of now, the USDA has only allowed the Free meals through December 31, 2020. This authorization could end earlier if funding is no longer available. Therefore, families should still send in a completed 2020-2021 household application to determine eligibility for Free and Reduced lunch. This will allow students to qualify and ensure a seamless transition when schools move back to a paid program (if the waiver is not extended for January – June 2021). The application is available to download on the Cheverus School website and you may also obtain one from the school.

Important Details:

In order to have accurate lunch counts, forecast ordering and lunch preparation, we ask that you **still fill out a monthly lunch order form** with your child's selection and return it to school by the due date noted on the top. This will ensure that your child will receive a school lunch on dates selected. Attached is updated lunch order form for September reflecting changes to our program. There will no longer be a daily Hot or Cold option, one type of lunch will offered.

Please reach out with any questions you may have. Your children are the reason we do our jobs and we are here to make sure they are fueled with good food!

Thank you,

Mary Martens
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“This institution is an equal opportunity provider”