

August 1, 2020

Hello Nativity Families,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve your children **HOT LUNCH** again this year. It is our continued commitment to serve nutritious and great tasting food in a safe way. Each meal is well balanced and will contain the standard recommendation for protein, carbohydrate, fruit/vegetable, grain and dairy. Fresh local produce will be incorporated into the menus. The price for hot lunch or milk will remain the same for this year. We will not be offering ice cream or dippin dots as we begin the school year but do plan to serve it as the year progresses. Hot lunch is \$3.15 and includes (1) milk; additional milk and milk for cold lunch students will be .35 cents. The lunches will be served on disposable trays with disposable silverware and individually packaged condiments. The hot lunch staff will be wearing face masks, gloves and face shields as they prepare the menus. The students will maintain social distancing in the lunch line and the tray will be prepared and placed for the student to pick up.

The system for paying for hot lunch and milk is as follows: Send envelope with check, cash, or money order to the school office marked "HOT LUNCH" with the student's/family name on the outside and it will be deposited into their account. Any time the student receives hot lunch or milk the charge will be deducted. Please pay attention to your student's balance displayed in Sycamore as all accounts need to maintain a positive balance. If the balance goes below \$10.00, the student will need to have a cold lunch until the hot lunch account has a positive balance. Any remaining balances from last school year have been transferred to the current school year. We are considering an online payment option and we will get the information to you once it is available.

We will continue the improvements that we made to the program last year as they appealed to the tastes of a wider range of students and staff. The system for ordering hot lunch is as follows:

- The monthly menu is sent home each month and the menu is also included in the weekly newsletter.
- Students wanting hot lunch will order it in their homeroom each morning during class attendance.
- If the student doesn't like the entree for the day and would still like hot lunch, a chef salad or yogurt can replace the entree for that day. This substitution must be ordered in homeroom at the same time as lunch is ordered. This does not change the price of hot lunch, the chef salad or the yogurt becomes the entree for that day.
- If a student (5th, 6th, 7th, 8th grade) would like an additional entree, it can be ordered at the cost of \$1.50 for each additional entree. This must be ordered in homeroom at the same time as lunch is ordered and is in addition to the hot lunch. An extra entree can only be ordered if a hot lunch is ordered, it cannot be ordered by itself.
- We prepare food portions based on the lunch count numbers that we receive from the school office each morning. If your child is coming late to school and wants hot lunch, please call the school office before 9:00 AM so that they can be included in the count for the day.
- If there is something on the menu that your child does not like, he/she may refuse **one** item on their tray or if they don't like the fruit or the vegetable that is offered, they can request extra of the fruit or vegetable that they do like.
- Students wanting Milk and Ice Cream/Dippin Dots do not need to order it ahead of time. They can get it during the lunch shift.

We will again be a part of the Government Hot Lunch Program. Please take the opportunity to complete and return the free and reduced application. Mail the completed application to the school: **Attention Ann Thomason**. All applications will be processed as soon as they are received. The first day of hot lunch is August 27 so send them as soon as possible to assure that your child can start receiving the benefit of free and reduced lunches. If you receive food stamps, your child is eligible for free hot lunch without completing the application. You can fill in the food stamp number on the free and reduced application in the space provided or by sending each child's name and their food stamp number to Ann Thomason through e-mail or through the school office.

I would love to hear from you about what the students like or would like to see on the menu. Please let me know if you have any questions/concerns/suggestions. I can be contacted by e mail at annthomason@sbcglobal.net, or a message can be left in the school office (816-353-0284) and your call will be returned.

Sincerely,
Ann Thomason
Director of Hot Lunch Program