



Guilderland CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOOD SERVICE NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back to a new school year! The Guilderland school district food service staff is looking forward to serving your children nutritious, great-tasting meals that support their achievements in school and promote healthy lifestyles. We strive to provide outstanding service and high quality “kid friendly” meals that meet the latest federal and state requirements.

Some of the goals for this year include offering more theme days and taste testings. Young children’s palates are constantly maturing. Conducting taste testings, especially at the elementary level gives students the opportunity to taste some new food items that they might not get to try elsewhere. Please encourage your children to participate in our taste testing events or to try new items on the menu. They just might become a new favorite! I am always available for comments, questions or concerns and we look forward to seeing the students on the first day of school!

Renee Heller
Director of Food Services
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518-456-6200, ext. 0110



If your student has a food allergy or medical condition, please contact our office to discuss menu options and planning



FARM TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

At GCSD, we strive to provide fresh and local options for our students on a daily basis with our Farm to School Program. Farm to School gives students access to nutritious, high quality, local food so they are ready to learn and grow. A few of the items we offer are apples from Indian Ladder Farms, potatoes from Goose Island Farm, and tomatoes from Black Horse Farms. We are proud to provide fresh produce items while supporting local businesses. Farm to School empowers children and their families to make informed food choices while strengthening the local economy and contributing to vibrant communities.

WHAT IS A STUDENT MEAL?

At both breakfast and lunch, we offer all the components needed to make a complete meal and students can take or decline as they wish. At breakfast, we offer four components, including a variety of bread/grain, fruit/vegetable and milk components; students must choose a minimum of three. Menu items may account for one or two components.

At lunch we offer five components; students must choose a minimum of three and can take up to five. Lunch components include meat/meat alternative, bread/grain, fruit, vegetable and milk. Once again, menu items may include more than one component; for example, a cheeseburger is both the meat/meat alternative and the grain. To purchase a reimbursable breakfast or lunch, one of the components chosen MUST be a fruit or vegetable at both meals.



HOW DO I PAY FOR SCHOOL MEALS?

- Options for food purchases include: cash, check or online payment.
- An automated point of sale system in all cafeterias allows parents to set up an account and view what their child is purchasing and their current account balance. This can be accomplished over the internet at www.schoolcafe.com
- Restrictions, low balance alerts and automatic withdraws can also be set by calling the Director of Food Services.
- MS/HS students will use their student ID to access their account for meal purchases.
- If you are paying by check please make it out to Guilderland CSD Café with your child's name on the check.

*Please note: you can add a statement on your child's account such as, "lunch only" or "breakfast only." Every child has the opportunity to eat both breakfast and lunch unless we have a note on their account that says otherwise.

Did you know? All students are eligible to eat Breakfast!

A LA CARTE PURCHASES

We sell a variety of a la carte items at all grade levels. All items sold follow the Smart Snack guideline laws as of 2014 which are as follows:

<35% of total calories can come from fat and contain zero trans fat.

<200 mg of sodium per packaged item

<200 calories per packaged item

Beverages: Elementary 8 fl oz. max, MS/HS 12 fl oz. and 40 calories per 8 oz.

*If there is money in your child's account or they have cash on hand, they can purchase a la carte snacks/beverages. If you want restrictions set or no a la carte purchases, please give us a call/e-mail.

School Meal Prices

	Breakfast	Lunch
Free/Reduced	\$0.00	\$0.00
Elementary	\$1.95	\$3.00
Middle School	\$2.50	\$3.25
High School	\$2.50	\$3.25

FREE & REDUCED

- Apply online, anytime, anywhere on www.schoolcafe.com. GCSD food services has made it faster and easier for parents to apply for free and reduced meals. This free service enables families to receive program benefits faster than using the paper application. Your application is electronically submitted directly to the food service department for processing.
- Each school year a new application must be submitted (1 per household family) even if your child was receiving free or reduced meals the last school year.
- You must complete a new application before OCTOBER 20, 2022. If you have not returned a new application by that date, your child will be removed from the program and will have to pay full price for meals until a new application is completed.
- If you accrue a negative balance and then qualify for free/reduced, you are still responsible to pay for that negative balance.
- If your child is receiving free/reduced meals they can have a complete breakfast and lunch meal.

