

WELCOME TO SCHOOL LUNCH

Dear Elementary Parents and Students:

Welcome back! The Conestoga Valley Food Service Staff is here to serve you. Please read the following news from your child's cafeteria:

Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria starting August 23, 2016 from 8:30 am to 8:50 am.

Elementary Breakfast Price for the 2016-17 school year will be \$1.30; Reduced price meals are \$.30.

Elementary Lunch Price for 2016-17 school year will be \$2.50; Reduced price meals are \$.40.

On a daily basis, all elementary grade students have a choice of one of five lunches to choose from: **Type A Lunch offers two different entrée choices; Grab N Go Salad; Alternate Cold Sandwich Lunch; or (Tue./Thurs.) Alternate Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich.** Also, for students going on field trips where lunches are required, the cafeteria will provide a bag lunch at the same cost of the school lunch. Your child's teacher will send the necessary paperwork home prior to the scheduled event.

Ala Carte items popular with students are available at an additional cost.

Low fat Ice Cream - \$1.00

Milk purchase only - \$.60

Students who purchase a complete student lunch may purchase an extra entrée for \$1.50 or an extra vegetable or fruit side dish for \$.75 each.

Point of Sale System –The Conestoga Valley School District food service has implemented a computerized debit system for the CV School District called **MEALS PLUS**. All students must use their **7 Digit Student ID** Number in order to purchase food items in the Cafeteria.

The major advantage of this system is the ability to prepay. Any amount can be deposited into the student's account in advance at any time during the school year. As purchases are made, the computerized system will keep track of your child's remaining fund balance. Students will **NOT** be able to withdraw cash from their account. When a student's account has reached the low limit of **\$5.00**, the cashier will notify the student. In addition, parents may go online to www.K12paymentcenter.com and create an account to view their student's account balances, purchases and fees. When placing funds on the K12PaymentCenter it may take 24 to 48 hours before the transaction is completed. Here is a website that may assist in setting up a k12payment center account - k12 payment center frequently asked questions- (<https://www.k12paymentcenter.com/Help.aspx>).

By making a prepayment you will no longer need to supply your child with cash each morning and you can be sure that the money in their account will be used to purchase food. All students are encouraged to make prepayments for meals and/or a la carte items. We have found that transactions for students who deposit funds into their accounts allow them to move through the lunch line more quickly. However, if you prefer that your child pay for their purchases in the cafeteria on a daily basis, a check or cash will still be accepted. Preprinted cafeteria deposit envelopes will be available for making a **check, payable to the Conestoga Valley School District** or cash payment. Please complete and take envelope with payment to the Elementary School cafeteria manager. Thereafter students can pick up and place their check or cash in the preprinted envelopes provided at each Elementary cash register. All deposits must be received by **9:00 am** to be entered into the student's account for the same day lunch period.

If your child withdraws from the CV area school district, any balance left in the account must have a parent or guardians written request in order to withdraw the total from their student's account, or it may be forwarded to a CV siblings account. Please complete a **Request for Refund Form** found on the CV Food Service website, or request a copy from the cafeteria manager and submit to the Food Service Office. After receiving and approving your request, a check will be mailed at the end of the requested month.

Elementary Student Lunch Charge Policy

Effective August 23, 2016 the district will permit students in kindergarten through sixth grade to charge **FIVE** lunches per school year. The sixth charge will result in the student receiving the minimum standard lunch allowed under the provision of the National School Lunch Program at no cost until any outstanding balances have been paid in full. The child will **NOT** be permitted to charge or purchase extra snacks until the balance is paid.

Notification will be given for lunch accounts with a low balance.

Charges for breakfast will not be permitted.

If you have any questions regarding your child's lunches, please call the cafeteria between 8:30 am to 10:30 am and ask to speak with the cashier or manager.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Teresa Drager, Food Service Director at (717) 556-0025. **Thank you for your continued cooperation and support of the Conestoga Valley Food Service Department.**

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CONESTOGA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Apply online at <https://www.paschoolmeals.com>

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Conestoga Valley School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$1.30; lunch costs are as follows: Elementary **\$2.50**; Middle School **\$2.65** and Senior High level ranges from **\$2.65-\$3.50**. Your child(ren) may qualify for free meals or for reduced-price meals. Reduced price is **\$0.30** for breakfast and **\$0.40** for lunch. The following questions and answers will provide information about the Free and reduced-Price Meal Program.



If you have received a **NOTICE OF DIRECT CERTIFICATION** for free meals, **do not** complete the application. But **do** let the school know if any children in your household are not listed on the **Notice of Direct Certification** letter you received.

1. Who can get free or reduced price meals?

- All children in households receiving benefits from SNAP or TANF are eligible for free meals.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is within the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals if your household income falls at or below the limits on this chart.

Income Eligibility Reduced-Price Guidelines—July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017					
Family Size	Annually	Monthly	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	21,978	1,832	916	846	423
2	29,637	2,470	1,235	1,140	570
3	37,296	3,108	1,554	1,435	718
4	44,955	3,747	1,874	1,730	865
5	52,614	4,385	2,193	2,024	1,012
6	60,273	5,023	2,512	2,319	1,160
7	67,932	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	75,591	6,302	3,152	2,910	1,455
<i>For each additional family member add:</i>					
	7,696	642	321	296	148

2. **How do I know if my children qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway?** Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail **Katie Reiff, Home School Visitor/School Social Worker, Conestoga Valley School District, 2426 Old Philadelphia Pike Lancaster, PA 17602, Telephone 717-394-0555 Ext. 6840 or email – Katharine_reiff@conestogavalley.org.**
3. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Use one Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Apply on line at <https://www.paschoolmeals.com>. Follow the instructions. Any questions contact, **Cara Forrest, 2110 Horseshoe Road, Lancaster, PA 17601, Telephone – 717-397-2421 Ext. 0016 or email - cara_forrest@conestogavalley.org.**
4. **Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are already approved for free meals?** No, but please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Cara Forrest, 2110 Horseshoe Road, Lancaster, PA 17601, Telephone – 717-397-2421 Ext. 0016, or email – cara_forrest@conestogavalley.org** immediately.
5. **Please apply online.** Please complete an online application. Visit <https://www.paschoolmeals.com> to begin or to learn more about the online application process. Contact **Cara Forrest, 2110 Horseshoe Road, Lancaster, PA 17601, or Telephone 717-397-2421 Ext. 0016, if you have any questions about the online application.**
6. **My child's application was approved last year. Do I need to fill out a new one?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **October 5, 2016**. You must complete a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not complete a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
7. **I get WIC. Can my children get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please complete an application.
8. **Will the information I give be checked?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
9. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
10. **What if I disagree with the school's decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Adele Huntzinger, Assistant Director of Business Services at 2110 Horseshoe Road, Lancaster, PA 17601 or 717-397-2421 Ext. 0010 or email adele_huntzinger@conestogavalley.org.**
11. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
12. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
13. **What if some household members have no income to report?** Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
14. **We are in the military. Do we report our income differently?** Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
15. **What if there isn't enough space on the application for my family?** On line application will have space for all family members.
16. **My family needs more help. Are there other programs we might apply for?** To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call the Department of Human Services at 1-800-692-7462.

If you have other questions or need help, call **717-397-2421 Ext. 0016.**

Sincerely,
Cara Forrest

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