

Dear Ichabod Crane Families,

As we prepare for the new school year, there are some important changes for families to be aware of. During the last two school years, the USDA ensured that all schools were able to offer meals free of charge to all students. However, this universal reimbursement expired on **June 30, 2022**. Therefore for the 22-23 school year, unless your family applies and is approved for free or reduced meals, there will be a charge for meals.

If your family was previously approved for the lunch program during the 2019-2020 school year, your student's eligibility will carry over **until October 18th**. Attached you will find the application for free & reduced meals along with income eligibility guidelines. We request that all families who meet the income eligibility guidelines on the attached chart fill out and return the application. Gathering information from all applicable households can strengthen the district's ability to apply for and receive increased levels of federal/state funding.

Here are a few things to know about filling out the free/reduced meal application:

- 1) They are kept confidential. Only the Food Service Supervisor sees the application.
- 2) Applications are available all year and can be filled out at any time. Once approved you are approved for the whole school year. Note however those seeking to continue eligibility status from prior applications must complete it by **October 18** in order to avoid any disruption in receiving free or reduced meals.
- 3) On the serving lines we don't use the words free or reduced. All students have a unique ID number which they use going through the serving line. All students are treated equally.

I recommend filling this out as soon as possible so that there is no lapse in your child's free or reduced status. Copies are also available at the main office in each building. If you have any questions regarding your child's eligibility please email me at tdigrigoli@ichabodcrane.org

For families that are not eligible for the free & reduced lunch program, I encourage you to set up a MySchoolBucks account where you can add funds and keep track of your child's account electronically. You can set up an account here <https://www.myschoolbucks.com>

Meal pricing

Breakfast

K-12 \$1.75

Lunch

K-5 \$2.75

6-12 \$3.25

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