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## GREENBUSH – MIDDLE RIVER

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2683

[www.middleriver.k12.mn.us](http://www.middleriver.k12.mn.us)

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September 9, 2020

Dear Greenbush-Middle River School District Families:

We have good news about “free school meals”. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has provided Minnesota school districts with guidance on how to access free meals for all students. We will begin serving free meals to all Greenbush Middle River students effective Monday, September 14, 2020.

If you are a distance learner and do not already pick up meals, please contact (Leah Hasson [lhasson@greenbush.k12.mn.us](mailto:lhasson@greenbush.k12.mn.us) or @ 218-782-2232 ext: 202).

At this time the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has notified us that free meals will be available until the end of December 2020 or **until funding runs out**. It is important to keep this fact in mind, since we may have to return to charging for meals with little notice. We will update you as quickly as possible when this change takes place.

Once funding runs out or when school starts in January after the winter break, we will need to return to operating under the NSLP (National School Lunch Program)/SBP (School Breakfast Program) programs. These are the food distribution programs we would normally follow during a school year. **The greatest change for our families in moving from SFSP to NSLP/SBP is that meals will no longer be free for every student.** Only those families who fill out the “application for educational benefits” form and are income eligible, will receive free and/or reduced meals once funding runs out or when school starts again in January 2021.

We understand that many of our families continue to find themselves in stressed financial conditions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For this reason, **we strongly encourage everyone to fill out the application for educational benefits.** The higher the number of qualified recipients of free and/or reduced meals a school district has, the more federal and state monies become available to our district in other areas as well as in our food service department.

Thank you for patience with this process. Providing high quality meals in an effort to nourish your students continues to be our highest priority so that they are ready to learn and grow whether they are learning in school or at home.

Sincerely,

Larry S. Guggisberg, Ed. D

Interim GMR School Superintendent