

Child Nutrition Report January 2021

During the month of January, the Child Nutrition Department has been working on preparations for students returning to the classroom. Our department worked with the Transportation Department to revise bus hub meal sites. Also, the Child Nutrition Department worked with the Maintenance Department to have a smooth transition to feeding students in the cafeteria and classrooms ensuring that CDC and MDH guidelines for Covid are followed. The pick-up school sites for bagged meals were revised as well. Families are welcome to pick up bagged breakfasts and bagged lunches at Ordean East Middle School, Lincoln Middle School, East High School and Denfeld High School.

The USDA extended the waiver for the Summer Meals Program through June 2021, which allows the Child Nutrition Department to serve meals at no charge to all children under the age of 18. This applies to breakfast and lunch meals provided in person at school as well as the bagged meals for families to pick up at schools and bus hubs.

The deadline for Free & Reduced applications to maximize the impact for Comp Ed revenue was extended to January 4, 2021 due to the pandemic. An additional 23 applications were processed January 1 to January 4, 2021.

The USDA & MDE Food and Nutrition Service School Nutrition Resource Management Review auditors requested additional financial details on the School Meals program. With the assistance of Peggy Blalock, Finance Manager, the additional information was submitted to the reviewers.

Continued training for the Cafeteria Managers on the new Healthy E menu software. The Healthy E menu software is USDA approved for Meal Programs. The program includes a menu planning tool, production record module, and nutrient menu analysis. This program helps ensure that all USDA, MDE meal regulations are met through menu planning and record keeping. Our Cafeteria Managers are excited to utilize this computer program, which makes the daily required documentation of food records, more efficient.

The Child Nutrition Department welcomed a new Satellite II Cafeteria manager to Lakewood School. Lily Flatt accepted the position. Elizabeth Russell retired from the Lakewood position after many years of service to the School District.

Menu planning, bus hub revision, school site meal pickup, and Child Nutrition staffing are being discussed so that the Child Nutrition Department is prepared for 3 -5 elementary students to return to school on February 8. Contingency plans for a Covid outbreak in a kitchen are also being discussed.