

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES – DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE

School Lunch

Food and Nutrition Services of the Diocese of Lafayette is dedicated to nourishing your child while they are at school. We provide top-quality, nutritious meals to children in a Christian environment. The Food and Nutrition Services Program operates the United States Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program, which offers balanced, nutritionally sound meals that meet USDA meal pattern requirements, at a low cost to families.

We strongly encourage your child to eat in the cafeteria and participate in the school meal experience. Every meal served meets rigorous meal planning requirements and includes proteins, whole grains, a variety of fruits and vegetables, and milk while restricting sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars. Students' exposure to different foods while at school and with their peers can provide an excellent opportunity for nutrition education and practice to try new foods. Children learn lifetime food habits during these early formative years.

Pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students can bring their lunch from home without a diet modification form on file. Students bringing bag lunches from home are required to follow strict adherence to the FNS Bag Lunch Guidelines which can be found on our website: www.fns-dol.org.

Please refer to the Food and Nutrition Services Policy Guidelines page on our website which provides further details about bag lunches in your child's school cafeteria:

- Due to student allergies, please do NOT send your child to school with foods containing nuts or peanuts.
- Microwaves will not be available to your child while at school. When packing your child's lunch from home, use ice packs or a thermos when appropriate to keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot.
- If your child's bag lunch is left at home, your child will be served a meal from the cafeteria. Bag lunches will not be allowed to be dropped off at school once instruction time begins.
- Fast food packaging and logos are prohibited in the cafeteria per USDA guidelines.

Students with special dietary requirements can be accommodated by uploading a Diet Modification Form to our website. Even if your child chooses to bring lunch from home, it is *highly recommended* that a diet modification form is still submitted for **all food allergies and intolerances**. Please upload a current, completed form to the google

form submission page, located on www.fns-dol.org under “Parent Resources.” Diet Modifications must be renewed at the beginning of each school year even though there may not be any changes to your child’s dietary needs. **It is the Food and Nutrition Services Policy that this form be completed ANNUALLY by parents.**

Cafeteria Fees

Food & Nutrition Services, in addition to providing nutritious meals to each student, also functions as a laboratory for providing nutrition education to students. Children learn lifelong food habits during these early formative years. Effective July 1, 2025, all students have the option to eat a meal provided by FNS or bring a bag lunch from home. School administrators are advised not to allow parents to drop off lunches during the school day if a child forgets to bring lunch. A meal will be provided for the child by the cafeteria in those instances.

Federal Regulations require that all students and teachers pay for their meals in advance. All students and adults receive a monthly bill on or around the 1st of the month. Accounts with a balance due will receive a second monthly bill on or around the 15th of every month. Bills are prepared by the Cafeteria Manager and emailed to parents. Diocesan policy states that any balance left in a student’s account will be rolled over to the following school year. Seniors' and 8th graders' money will be rolled into a sibling’s account, or if there are no siblings, then a refund is given.

Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's account balance closely, by utilizing www.MySchoolBucks.com or by downloading the MySchoolBucks app. If a child's meal account was charged in error, the cafeteria manager should be contacted immediately. Once notified, the FNS team will take the necessary steps to investigate the matter and take corrective action. As it becomes harder to investigate charges over time, FNS requests that parents notify their cafeteria or central office within 10 business days of any charges to address the issue. If they do not, the charges will remain and will not be reversed.

School administrators are encouraged to collect any outstanding charges in students’ accounts through their online payment system during the month of May.

Applications for federally subsidized free or reduced-price lunches for students can be found at www.myschoolapps.com. Parents are responsible for applying for meal benefits for their children, each school year according to the instructions and deadlines on the form.