

Dillon School District Three
Food Service Newsletter

New beginnings for the 2016-17 School Year

Greetings and welcome to the 2016—2017 school year. Our cafeteria staff hopes that everyone had a great summer! As we begin the new school year there are a few points of interest that we would like to share. ***Please read this entire newsletter for helpful information!***

We provide a fun and nutritious menu that is already in compliance with the new USDA Wellness Program. Our meals have a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables as well as whole grain products. We are proud to be recognized nationally by the Healthier US Schools for providing the nutrition that your children need. We welcome you to come and enjoy a meal with us at anytime! Please contact the main office or cafeteria manger at your child's school to make an appointment to eat with your child. Adult meals will cost \$3.55. Monthly menus (paper copy) will no longer be provided. You can find our menu on the school website www.dillon3.k12.sc.us.

Meal Benefits Available to Students

The food service program is self supporting and receives no funds from local taxation. USDA allows meal benefits to those families who qualify according to USDA income guidelines. An application is provided with this newsletter. An application may be completed at anytime during the school year. **However, until your child has been approved, full payment is expected.** The price for lunch is \$2.50 a day. The price for reduced lunch is .40 and breakfast is **FREE** to all students. Be sure to complete and submit the application as soon as possible. Please keep in mind we have over 1700 students in our district and it takes time to process family applications. By law we have 30 calendar days to complete the application process. If you turn in your application the first day of school that does not mean your application will be approved on that day. We thank you in advance for understanding.

Applications

Over the years, some believe an application is needed for every student in the district. Only **ONE APPLICATION IS NEEDED PER HOUSEHOLD. If you have completed an application and have listed each child's LEGAL NAME (no nicknames) in the home, grade, school and income that is all we need.**

If you are asked by your child's teacher to fill out a lunch form and you have already completed one for the family, please send the teacher a note explaining you have already completed an application at another school. **If at any time throughout the year your income or household size changes you may fill out a new application for your family.**

If you have questions about the application or do not understand how to complete it, contact your child's school cafeteria manager who can help you or contact us in the School Food Service Office at **(843)-752-7101**.

NOTIFICATION OF PREDETERMINED ELIGIBILITY (DIRECT CERTIFICATION), it is **not** necessary to fill out or return an application on the students listed. This student is pre-approved to receive free school lunch. **You** will receive a letter in the mail from the Director stating you do not have to complete an application. If you **DO NOT** receive a letter you will need to complete a new application.

The Federal guidelines change each year. Your child(ren) may have received free or reduced lunch as long as they have been in school due to your household income. As the guidelines change and although you're household income has not changed this may make a difference in the outcome of your meal application.

REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS:

The cost for a student meal for full paying students will increase to \$2.50 a day for school year 2016-2017. Reduced paying meals are .40 a day. Please pay by the week for your child's meals.

\$12.50 a week for full paying students
\$2.00 a week for reduced paying students

Frequently asked Questions

1) Who can get funds?

Children in households getting Food Stamps or TANF And most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free price meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.

2) Who can get reduced price meals?

Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart.

3) Will the information I give be checked?

Yes, we may ask you to send written proof.

4) I don't qualify now, may I apply later?

Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your child(ren) may be able to get free or reduced price meals.

5) 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:
Dr. John Kirby, Superintendent, 205 King Street, Latta 843-752-7101.

6) May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?

Yes. You or your child (ren) do not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify for free or reduced price meals.

7) What if my income is not always the same?

List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down that you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

8) We are in the military; do we include our housing allowance as income?

If your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. All other allowances must be included in your gross income.

9) I get WIC. Can my child (ren) get free lunch?

Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out the application.

Procedures For Meal Charging

The credit limit for Latta Elementary School is \$5.00. A credit limit for Latta Middle School is \$5.00. There is a **NO-CHARGE** policy for **Latta High School students**.

Please send money a week in advance for meals. Notes and/or phone calls will notify parents of charges if the charge limit is reached. It is very important that you pay in advance so charges will not accumulate.

Students from Kindergarten through Fourth grade may bring monies from home in a sealed envelope with their **LEGAL** name on it. The teacher will take this up each morning and send it to the cafeteria. Money will be applied to the proper account before lunch. Fifth through eighth grade students will give monies to their homeroom teacher. High School students may pay the cashier or add money to their account during lunch. Al la Carte items will be priced and sold to students during their lunch time. **Students will not be allowed to purchase food and have money taken off accounts. These items will be CASH ONLY items.**

Food Substitutions

If your child has a food allergy please be sure to provide the cafeteria/nurse with the **approved documentation**. We must have documentation from a doctor if a substitution is made.

FREE Universal Breakfast

We offer Universal Breakfast for all students. This means each school provides a **FREE** breakfast for your child! This also allows the parent to have additional time in the morning to spend with your child.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve your child healthy and enjoyable meals throughout his/her school year. Should you have any questions regarding the above information, please contact our office at **752-7101**.

Si necesita ayuda, or favor llame al telefono: 752-7101.

Si vous voudriez d'aide, contactez nous au numero: 752-7101.

Sincerely,

Theresa B. Rogers

Contact information on back >

Cafeteria Contact Information

Food Service Office (843) 752-7101
Theresa Rogers
theresa@mail.dillon3.k12.sc.us

Latta Elementary Cafeteria
Carolyn Caulder (843) 752-2712

Latta Middle or Latta High Cafeteria.
Pam Lane (843) 752-2723

School Contact Information

Latta Elementary School (843) 752-5295
Latta Middle School (843) 752-7117
Latta High School (843) 752-5157

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