

August 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are thrilled to be serving your child for the 2022-2023 school year! To kick off the new year, we wanted to share a few things you and your child can look forward to when it comes to mealtime and get an inside look at the new recipes, concepts, and programs we'll be introducing this fall.

Food Kids Love to Eat

Chartwells' team of chefs and dietitians are working to bring even more variety to our menus featuring new recipes with kid-approved foods. This year look for these updates and changes:

- **Deli Station:** Students at the middle school and high school will get to choose from a variety of meats, breads, vegetables and toppings to create their own salad or sandwich.
- **Fruit and Vegetable Bars:** Student at the elementary schools will be offered extra fruits and vegetables with their lunch meal allowing them to get more of their favorites and try new ones too!
- **New menu items** including popcorn chicken bites in a delicious orange sauce with rice and vegetables and BBQ meatballs with a freshly baked whole grain biscuit.

Free and Reduced-Price Meals

Thanks to nationwide waivers for federally funded meal programs, school meals were free to all students through the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, these waivers have expired, so schools must return to charging for lunch. **Breakfast will continue to be free for all grades.** Free or reduced-price meals are only available to students who qualify for these benefits, but all students, regardless of family situations are encouraged to dine in the cafeteria together. For the 2022-23 school year, lunch will cost \$2.75 for elementary school and \$2.95 for middle and high school.

We encourage all families, regardless of income, to complete and submit a short, confidential school meal application prior to the start of the school year to ensure that there are no gaps in meal benefits for students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Parents or guardians can complete this application online through the Meal Magic Family Portal at <https://crawfordsville.familyportal.cloud>.

Food Allergies and Special Dietary Needs

We recognize the critical importance in supporting students and families who manage food allergy issues or medical conditions that require a modification to their menu. If you would like your child to receive meal accommodations for food allergies or a medical condition impacting the diet, please ensure that you submit the required documentation to your child's school nurse. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your student's allergies or dietary needs, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Registered Dietitian, Margo Birk. We are committed to providing safe meals for all students.

Programs that Encourage Fun and Discovery

Chartwells continues to inspire healthy eating habits and spark a culinary curiosity to last a lifetime through fun and engaging programs, including Mood Boost, Discovery Kitchen and Student Choice. Take a look at our CSC Food Service page for more details on these programs or ask your student about these fun activities they are doing in the cafeteria and classroom!

Menus and Nutrition Facts at Your Fingertips

Through Nutrislice, an innovative app, students, parents and faculty have access to school menus, including nutrition information, allergens and photos. Nutrislice can be downloaded for free from the App store (iOS) or Google Play (Android) and is available on desktop and mobile devices. Menus are also available at <https://cville.nutrislice.com/>.

Celebrating Our School Lunch Heroes

Whether they're at the ready with a spoon, spatula, or welcoming smile, these school lunch heroes go above and beyond to not only serve foods kids love to eat, but to ensure that students leave the cafeteria happier and healthier than they came in.

We are always looking for talented individuals to join the dining services team with perks including, family friendly schedules, no night or weekend work, health insurance, and more. To apply, click on the link, <https://careers.compassgroupcareers.com/food-service-worker-cashier-full-time/job/19300647>.

Through sharing our passion for great tasting food, instilling a desire for food discovery, and most importantly, providing nourishing meals, we're excited to continue serving up happy and healthy to your children in the year ahead.

We love hearing from parents, and your feedback is important to us. Please reach out to our team with any questions or comments. We're looking forward to a great school year!

Thank you,

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Margo Birk, Registered Dietitian
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