

FOOD FOR THOUGHT *Fall, 2021*

Special Family Edition Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Department of School Nutrition at Lawrence County Schools

Welcome Back to School!

We look forward to the opportunity to feed your children this school year.

This newsletter will provide you with information about the cafeteria operations at all of the Lawrence County Schools. We hope that you will take a few minutes to read this edition and learn about your school cafeteria's breakfast and lunch programs. We are here to serve the nutrition needs of the students.

No Charge for Students meals due to a USDA COVID Waiver for SY 21-22

Good news! USDA has extended their COVID waiver allowing us to feed all students a complete breakfast and lunch, regardless of their eligibility, at no charge for SY 21-22.

Please check with your child's school for a la carte pricing.

	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>
Students, PK – 12	No Charge	No Charge

Changes this Year

LCSS Cafeterias are inspected twice a year by the local health department, just like any restaurant. We work with our health inspector to ensure we are continuing to meet the local, state, and national guidelines for cleaning and sanitizing.

To maintain less touching in the cafeterias, we may only use barcode scanners instead of keypads. Please make sure your student has their ID badge. If they are over 13, they can create an account for themselves at schoolcafe.com with their barcode they can scan from their phone. They will need their state ID to set this up. It is their L number, minus the L. If they are under 18, they can still take a photo of their badge, including the barcode and use this to scan.

Watch the less website and social media for the most up to date information.

Community Eligible Provision School

Ingram Sowell Elementary & David Crockett Elementary qualifies for Community Eligible Provision (CEP) based on the criteria set forth by USDA. **Ingram Sowell & David Crockett are the only CEP schools in Lawrence**

County for the school year 2021-2022. If your child went to Ingram Sowell or David Crockett last year and is now going somewhere else, be sure to complete a free & reduced meal application to see if your child(ren) qualifies for free or reduced. If you have children in different schools, please make sure to fill out a free & reduced application as well. USDA has specific criteria that individual schools as well as individuals must meet to qualify for federal programs and assistance.

Why fill out a free and reduced application if there is no charge for meals?

Free and reduced meal applications are important for our schools for many reasons. Applications may impact how much funding a school receives and determine eligibility for other programs that help support students.

Online Application Process for Free and Reduced Price Breakfast and Lunch

Families only have to fill out one application for all students in their household who attend school in Lawrence County. You can fill out an application at schoolcafe.com. More information can be found at less.us. You can also fill out a paper application. Watch for the new free & reduced meals applications and instructions for this school year. The applications are white. Your child should bring the application home in their packet if they are at a non-CEP school. If you have children at both a CEP and non-CEP school, please make sure to fill out an application. Anytime you fill out a free & reduced meal application, a letter is sent home notifying you of your eligibility once it is received at the Central Office. This process normally takes a few days. If you do not receive this letter it means, we did not receive your application. If you haven't heard from us, please contact the School Nutrition Department at the Central Office at 931-762-5251. If you would like, you may bring your application to the School Nutrition Department at the Central Office instead of sending it to school with your child. At any time during the year you are welcome to complete a free & reduced meal application, even if you have already submitted a previous application. Please make sure to fill out an application anytime you have an increase in household members or a decrease in household income.

Students Transferring Schools

If your child is moving from one school to another school within Lawrence County, their money from the cafeteria will roll to their new school. Please allow a few days for this transaction to occur, especially at the beginning of the school year. If there is any money left in the child's account at the end of the year, it will be available to him/her at the start of the new school year.

Meal Charges

For SY 21-22, there will be no charge for student meals due to a USDA waiver. Charging of a la carte is not allowed.

Notification of Low Balances

Students will be told if they need money. School and Central Office staff will also call or email parents. Parents can also sign up using our online system to receive free email notifications of low balances. Our online system is schoolcafe.com. You will need to select when you want to be notified.

Online Payment System

Lawrence County has implemented an online payment system for school nutrition! Instead of sending a check or cash with your child, you can now pay on-line. The site accepts credit or debit cards for payments. Each transaction will have a small fee. You can also schedule automatic payments based on account balance. **You can use this system free of charge to check your child's balance, as well as receive email notification of meal account balances or low balances and fill out free and reduced applications.** The site allows one account for multiple students! The website is schoolcafe.com. You will need your child's state ID, minus the L to enroll.

What makes up a Meal?

School meals today are not what they used to be when many of us were children in school. Today, students are given choices of the foods they want to consume through a program called "Offer vs. Serve." All grades, with the exception of PK, will be offer vs serve, unless the meal is transported.

At lunch we offer multiple entrees a day. Bringing your lunch from home? Add a fruit, veggie and milk for free! eThis year, lunch is free to all students, but for those that wish to grab a milk or add a fruit, you must pick 3 to count as a free lunch.

Take Advantage of a Free School Breakfast!

All of our cafeterias offer a **FREE** full breakfast each morning and several offer breakfast after the first period for students! All of the cafeterias have a variety of foods from which to choose. Some of the items offered are whole grain cereal, yogurt, whole grain muffins, biscuits, eggs, meat, breakfast pizza, 100% fruit juice, fresh fruit,

and milk. Check out the time that your school starts breakfast and give it a try.

Quality Products Make Quality Meals!

Lawrence County uses food products from many of the same quality manufacturers that you use in your home kitchens. Listed are just a few examples of the quality products we use. Purity Ice Cream, Purity Milk, Tyson, Jennie-O turkey, Conagra, Pillsbury, Juicy Juice, General Mills, Lamb Wesson, Dannon, Kellogg's, Heinz, Schwan's and Frito Lay.

Interested in working with School Nutrition?

Lawrence County School Nutrition is always in need of dependable and dedicated substitutes for the school cafeterias. These opportunities are perfect for individuals with children because you can work the same hours and days as your children. If this sounds good to you, let us know. Contact us at kindlyn.simpson@lcss.us for more information!

How to Get in Touch with Your School Cafeteria...

If you ever have a question about your cafeteria, you may call the manager of that school's dining facility and talk directly to them. Here is a "Who's Who" for LCS Department of School Nutrition.

School	Manager	Telephone #
E.O. Coffman	Angie Jeffries	762-6340
David Crockett	Janie Gibbs	762-1529
Ethridge Elementary	Sharon Williams	201-5883
Ingram Sowell	Dianne Kobeck	762-3379
Lawrence Co High	Kim Moore	762-4946
Lawrenceburg Public	Brenda Gentry	762-1560
Leoma Elementary	Crystal Roberson	231-8198
Loretto High	Jeree Mote	231-8848
New Prospect	Peggy Hill	762-0478
South Lawrence	Elaine Jackson	231-8197
Summertown Elem.	Patti Rosson	964-4128
Summertown High	Becky Bond	964-2267
School Nutrition Office	DeRhonda McKissack Kindlyn Simpson	762-5251

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.