

# **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**Fall, 2024**

## **Special Family Edition Newsletter**

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

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### **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 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 our students. You can also visit the LCSS website at [less.us](http://less.us) and click under About and then Food Services & Nutrition for more information.

### **Community Eligible Provision Schools**

All of our brick-and-mortar schools in Lawrence County qualify for Community Eligible Provision (CEP) based on the criteria set forth by USDA. This means all students can get a complete breakfast and lunch, regardless of their eligibility, **at no charge** for SY 24-25.

Please check with your child's school for a la carte pricing. Charging of a la carte is not allowed.

No one will need to complete a free and reduced application for SY 24-25. However, there may be a household survey to see who is in households together to possibly help keep the program.

### **Good to know information**

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.

### **Student ID numbers**

Please make sure your student has their ID badge and/or know their state ID number for their meals. If they are over 13, they can create an account for themselves at [schoolcafe.com](http://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.

### **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.

### **Online Payment System & Notification of Low Balances**

Lawrence County has an online payment system for school nutrition! Instead of sending a check or cash with your child, you can pay online. 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 notifications of meal account balances or low balances.** You will need to select when you want to be notified. The site allows one account for multiple students! The website is [schoolcafe.com](http://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, except 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 at no charge! This year, due to CEP, all students eat at no charge, but for those who wish to grab milk or add fruit, you must pick 3 to not be charged.

## 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, fruit and yogurt smoothies, 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, Conagra, Pillsbury, Juicy Juice, General Mills, Lamb Wesson, McCain, Dannon, Kellogg’s, Heinz, Schwan’s, and Frito Lay.

## Supply Chain

Please note, just as in retail, we are still experiencing supply chain issues. Last-minute menu changes could occur due to this.

## 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](mailto:kindlyn.simpson@lcss.us) or call 931-762-3851 ext. 2311 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 LCSS Department of School Nutrition.

School	Manager	Telephone #
E.O. Coffman	Angie Jeffries	762-6395
David Crockett	Janie Gibbs	762-1529
Ethridge Elem.	Tegan Balentine	201-5883
Ingram Sowell	Jeanie Wilcoxson	762-3379
Lawrence Co High	Kim Moore	762-4946
Lawrenceburg Public	Jessica Graves	762-1560
Leoma Elementary	Crystal Roberson	231-8198
Loretto High	Lauren Anderson	231-8848
New Prospect	Peggy Hill	762-0478
South Lawrence	Kerri Brown	231-8197
Summertown Elem.	Patti Rosson	964-4128
Summertown High	Becky Bond	964-2267
School Nutrition Office	Jennifer Collier Kindlyn Simpson	762-3581

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.