



A Regional Educational Service Center

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to EDUCATION CONNECTION's Food Service Program. We are, again, committed to providing your child with a quality and professional lunch service for the 2010-2011 school year. We share in the community's concern about nutrition education awareness, responsible eating habits, and childhood obesity. We will continue to find ways to improve, and are committed to offering healthy meals in our cafeterias. With the start of the new 2010-2011 school year, EDUCATION CONNECTION's Food Service Program has implemented the following changes in our cafeterias. These changes are the first steps toward achieving the goals of the school's healthy initiative.

- Fresh fruits and vegetables continue to be offered on each serving line, including ala carte lines
- Good nutrition will be marketed to students on a regular basis
- Reduced fat and baked chips will be available in schools
- Pre-packaged sweets will be limited (i.e. Hostess). Instead, granola bars, low-fat baked goods, low-fat string cheese, bagels, dried fruit, low-fat yogurt, fresh fruit, and salads will be available
- Available beverages: 100% juice products, water, soy milk, vegetable drinks, and low-fat milk

Children can buy lunch for **\$2.50 (Black Rock School)**, **\$2.50 (Center School)**, or **\$2.75 (Thomaston High School)**. For your convenience, payments may be made daily; however, we will continue to and encourage pre-payments for full lunch. Please note the following collection procedure.

1. The parent/guardian should insert a check or cash into a sealed, standard white envelope. The check should be made payable to: Thomaston Lunch Program. Please include the following information on the front of the envelope:
 - a) Student's name & ID #
 - b) Amount enclosed
 - c) Grade & homeroom
2. Classroom teachers will collect envelopes as they are received and forward them to lunch program staff.
3. Parents of Black Rock School students may pay \$12.50 weekly; \$25.00 bi-weekly; \$50.00 monthly, or any greater amount you choose. All ala carte items and milk (\$0.40) will continue to be sold on a cash basis. We also offer an alternate lunch of soup and sandwich with milk and dessert of the day.
4. Parents of Center School students may pay \$12.50 weekly; \$25.00 bi-weekly; \$50.00 monthly, or any greater amount you choose. Milk, meals, and ala carte items will continue to be sold on a cash basis. We also offer an alternate lunch of soup and sandwich or pasta with sauce; both include dessert of the day and milk.
5. Parents of Thomaston High School students may pay \$13.75 weekly; \$27.50 bi-weekly; \$55.00 monthly, or any greater amount you choose. Milk, meals, and ala carte items will continue to be sold on a cash basis. Ala Carte lunch choices will include hot entrees, sandwiches, salads, baked goods, and more.
6. Parents may send money at any time during the month; our preference, however, is on Friday.
7. If payments have not been received, an emergency lunch consisting of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and milk will be given. This provision will be limited to three times per year. Charging will not be allowed.
8. Free lunch students remain free; however, a new application must be submitted. Reduced lunch students will be \$2.00 per week; \$8.00 per month, or any greater amount you choose.

Lunch will be served on the first day of school. We look forward to serving you and your children. We are confident that you will be pleased with the quality and healthy variety of products we offer. Thank you for your continued support of EDUCATION CONNECTION and the Thomaston Public Schools lunch program.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Allen
Food Services Director
EDUCATION CONNECTION