

Gahanna-Jefferson Schools

Welcome You and Your Children to the Cafeteria



Students at Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools receive a well-balanced, nutritious meal each day made by the district's Food Service Staff based on USDA requirements.

Plate lunches contain the basic food groups including:



- protein (meat/meat alternate)
- whole grains
- vegetables
- fruits
- ½ pint of milk

Students purchasing a plate lunch may choose 3-5 components – protein, whole grains, milk, and must include a fruit or vegetable.

A variety of **vegetables** from each vegetable sub-group are offered weekly including:

Dark Green	Red/Orange	Beans/Legumes	Starchy	Other Veggies
Broccoli	Carrots	Kidney Beans	Corn	Celery
Romaine	Sweet Potatoes	Hummus	Potatoes	Green Beans
Spinach	Tomatoes	Black Beans	Peas	Cucumbers

Plate lunch and breakfast menus are available online at www.gahannaschools.org. Elementary plate lunches cost \$2.75 (reduced .40); \$3.00 at middle and high school; breakfast is \$1.50 (reduced .30). Breakfast is available at Chapelfield, Goshen Lane, Jefferson, Lincoln, Royal Manor, Middle Schools South & West, and Lincoln High School.

Families may apply for free or reduced-price meals any time during the school year. Applications are available in each school, the admin office, and may be submitted online at <http://fnr.gjps.org>.

Gahanna-Jefferson Public School's cafeterias utilize a point of sale system. All students use their 6-digit student identification number as their PIN. Parents are encouraged to pay in advance for meals through MyPaymentsPlus online, by cash (not encouraged), or checks.

Students on the **free and reduced priced meals** program are eligible for a plate lunch (and plate breakfast where offered) daily. The cafeteria computer system provides complete confidentiality.

Parents are encouraged to keep track of their child's account balance, which can be verified online at www.MyPaymentsPlus.com.



At no cost, MyPaymentsPlus allows families to:

- Check your child's current account balance online
- Create settings to **receive email notifications** when their account reaches a low balance
- For a small program fee you can make a prepayment into your child's meal account using a credit or debit card at www.MyPaymentsPlus.com and create settings to automatically replenish the account when it reaches a low balance. Online deposits of \$50 or more per child will earn a **bonus** (to offset the program fee of .0475%)

Child Nutrition Department 614-478-5531
Linda Green
Beverly Fansler

Procedure for Student Meal Charges

It is the responsibility of parents to provide lunch for their children while at school. It is important that children receive the nutrition they need to stay focused and learn during the school day. The Gahanna-Jefferson Child Nutrition Department's goal is to provide healthy meals to students and support its self-funded account.

Unpaid meal charges place a financial strain on the Child Nutrition Department. While we intend to feed all students needing lunch, treat the students with respect regarding charging of meals, it remains the parents' responsibility to provide payment or pack lunches.

Several programs are in place to assist families

- Parents may submit Free/Reduced-Price Meal Applications by hard copy or online at any time during the year as they are processed daily
- Parents may prepay for meals by cash or check made payable to the school cafeteria or online by credit/check card
- Parents may visit www.mypaymentsplus.com and register for a free account to view student's account balances, purchase history, online payments, as well as set up notifications for low balances, auto pay features, and make payments online
- Parents may call the Child Nutrition office at 614-478-5531 for student account balance
- The Child Nutrition office notifies parents weekly via email of their child(ren)'s negative balance and will repeat until the lunch debt is paid
- The Child Nutrition office will attempt to reach parents by phone **after the limit of 4 meals** (breakfast and/or plate lunches) have been charged
- Students may inquire about their balance with the cashier. Cashiers also remind the students "to tell someone at home that you need lunch money".
- Parents may contact the Child Nutrition office to limit purchases, ex. "Plate Lunch only" by calling Beverly Fansler at 614-478-5531 or submit the Food Allergies and Restriction Form
- Charging of snacks, beverages, or second meals are never allowed. These a la carte purchases must be paid with cash or with funds in the student's account.
- In the event a student has reached his/her charge limit, has no packed lunch, and no funds in hand, a ONE time Emergency Meal (Plate Lunch or Breakfast) will be provided. The Child Nutrition office will email or call the parent to inform them that their student's account is in crisis
- In the event that the charge limit has been reached and not paid, an alternative meal will be offered
- An alternative meal is a cheese sandwich and a fruit or vegetable of the day during lunch, and a fruit/grain bar for breakfast

Please note: During the last 2 weeks of school students may not charge meals. They must have cash, check, or funds on their account to purchase breakfast or lunch. Remaining positive balances will transfer to the next school year.

Special circumstances may be discussed with the Child Nutrition Supervisor, Linda Green at 614-478-5535 or GREENL@GPS.ORG