

## **Bandera Independent School District School Nutrition Services**

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The School Nutrition Services staff is looking forward to serving your child's nutritional needs this coming school year. Here are answers to some commonly asked questions.

- 1) ***How much is breakfast?*** The breakfast price is \$1.25. Reduced-price breakfast is 30¢. Breakfast is an important part of a child's learning ability. We are here to help on those hurried mornings.
- 2) ***How much is lunch?*** The elementary lunch price is \$1.75 and the high school/middle school price is \$2.00. Free and reduced-price meals are available for eligible students. The reduced lunch price is 40¢. An application for free and reduced-price meals is attached.
- 3) ***Where can my child purchase school meals?*** Breakfast and Lunch meals may be purchased in the cafeteria. Please encourage your child to purchase meals in the morning so the serving line will move faster. This gives the students more time to enjoy their meal. Or, as an option, parents can view balances and make credit or debit card deposits on-line using the Lunch Money Now program. Simply go to the Bandera I.S.D. website at [www.banderaisd.net](http://www.banderaisd.net) and choose Departments, School Nutrition Services and Lunch Money Now for a demonstration.
- 4) ***What are the advantages of eating meals at school?*** School meals are convenient, nutritious, and an exceptional value for parents and students. We incorporate weekly nutrient-standard menu analysis. The development of sound dietary habits among children is very important as our students grow.
- 5) ***How many days worth of meals may I purchase?*** All school cafeterias use a "point of sale" computerized system. Purchases can be made on a daily basis or a prepaid account may be established for more efficient purchasing. Parents may deposit any amount of money into the child's account and the system deducts purchases made by the student.
- 6) ***What happens if my check is returned due to insufficient funds?*** You will be notified if a check is returned. The amount will be charged back to the student's meal account. Due to the associated costs to the school district, a service fee of \$30.00 will be applied (subject to change without notice).
- 7) ***Can I charge student meals?*** Parents are encouraged to use the convenience of the prepaid accounts because it increases the amount of time students have to enjoy their meals. In addition, they do not have to worry about bringing money to school each day or losing it before they reach the cafeteria. Although charges are not allowed, "emergency lunches" are available for students who forget or lose their money. Students with outstanding negative balances exceeding three meals will lose privileges of making food choices and be issued an alternative meal until the debt is paid.
- 8) ***Must I apply for the meal program each year?*** The program administrators at the Department of Agriculture require a new application each school year. A 30-day grace period is allowed to accommodate processing of new applications.
- 9) ***Who will know if my child participates in the free and reduced-price meal program?*** The computerized systems ensure student confidentiality in that they will not be identified as participating in the program. All students pay for meals or access their meal accounts in the same manner.
- 10) ***Who can I call if I have a question?*** Your school office and the school nutrition office are available to answer your questions.

You are encouraged to complete the attached application even if you are not sure you qualify. If you would like to apply, complete the application and return it to your child's school. Only one application per household needs to be completed (*separate applications for each foster child*). Print all the names and grades of the children you are applying for in the student information section. Do not forget to include them in the household member section. Please read all the application instructions; which are also attached.

We are proud to be of service to all students at Bandera schools. If you need further assistance, please call the School Nutrition Services office at 796-6294 or contact your school office. We wish you and your children success during the 2010-2011 school year.

Sincerely,  
Felicia Bell  
School Nutrition Director  
ARAMARK School Support Services