



Dear Parent / Student:

This year the NY State Education Department has placed stricter mandates on the School Lunch Program Directors to manage our budgets. We are not permitted to allow students to carelessly charge items they or their parents, cannot pay for. **Ala carte charges of items such as snacks, (chips & cookies) ice cream, bottled water (and other beverages) and additional entrees is not allowed.** All students are permitted to charge a full reimbursable meal so if a student occasionally forgets their lunch money, they do not go the day without eating.

Students **may not ask for their account balances at the cash register** as the cashiers are not allowed to talk about specific dollar balances any longer. **Students may however ask if they have enough to make a purchase** (and should ask BEFORE selecting an item) **and the cashier may state yes or no. Students are encouraged to see the Food Service Director to obtain a meal transaction report and see for themselves the current balance on account.**

Food Service Directors will be notifying parents, via mailings, emails, texts or robo calls to notify if a student has a negative meal account balance. Mailings are costly (paper, postage, and labor hours), so Directors are asking parents to please discuss this topic with your students and be aware of the mandates we who are serving your children are trying to follow.

Parents are encouraged to sign up at www.MySchoolBucks.com and have an easy way to manage students meal accounts. Deposits may be made from home and parents may check student account balances at any time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Deborah Mackey, CDM
Food Service Director
Whitehall Central School District
87 Buckley Road
Whitehall, NY 12887
(518) 499-1770 ext 2013
dmackey@railroaders.net