

# Whitehall Central School District

## Food Service Updates 2017- 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

The National School Lunch Program is a federally operated program, and we must follow the USDA guidelines to ensure that students are receiving the proper nutrition to learn. In addition, we must follow the guidelines set forth allowing negative balances to accrue on student accounts.

Our school district participates in a prepayment system for the purchase of meals. You may log onto [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) and open a secure account which will allow you to prepay for meals. Not only is this a very efficient way of assuring that your student has access to funds for meals, it also allows you to login at any time and see activity on the account. Students use their current ID number. This ID number will stay with the student until he/she graduates. Check prepayments are accepted and encouraged; simply place your child's ID number on the check.

The Food Service Department believes this will assure the parents that meal money will be used for breakfast / lunch. No one will feel any embarrassment when using the National School Lunch Program (free and reduced eligible) as no one will be identified as such. Students are only identified by their ID numbers when making purchases. This system speeds up the meal line because there is little money being exchanged. Students do not have to worry about losing or protecting their money and it is an efficient and effective way for us to meet your child's needs now and in the future

**A Frequently Asked Question:** What will stop the student from purchasing more than the parent allows or purchasing just snacks and not a meal?

**Answer:** If this is a concern with your child, simply notify us in writing with your limitations, and we will enter it into the system and we will comply with your wishes. We also have the ability to list allergies and special needs to accommodate your child's meal plan.

In order to maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit school food service account, **if a student's meal account gets low, you will receive a reminder call to make a deposit, send money, or pack a lunch for your child.** If the student forgets his or her money, or there are no funds available in their account, the system will allow a negative balance up to (4) meals. Charges in excess of 2 breakfast meals and 2 lunch meals will not be permitted in the coming school year, so please plan accordingly.

Enclosed, please find the current application for Free and Reduced meals. Even if you feel your student may not qualify for this program, it is in your best interest to apply and take advantage of the availability of this service for your student. If you need help to fill out the application, please don't hesitate to give a call or stop in. The Food Service Director or school Social Worker will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Mackey, Food Service Director  
Whitehall Central School District  
499-0346 ext 2013