



Students at Birmingham Public Schools Can Look Forward to New Menus, Favorite Meals at No Cost and Engaging Cafeteria Programs This Fall

Chartwells K12 is Making Mealtime Happier and Healthier for Students!

As students head back to school for the 2021-2022 school year, families can check breakfast and lunch off their list. This year, we will be serving meals to students in all grade levels at *no cost*, allowing everyone to enjoy mealtime together, thanks to flexibilities provided by the USDA's National School Lunch Program. By serving food kids love to eat, offering innovative programs that encourage fun and discovery, and creating a place where students can connect and recharge with others, the Chartwells K12 team at Birmingham Public Schools is making sure students leave the cafeteria happier and healthier than when they came in.

After modifying meal service last year to serve students in a hallway/common area, meals at the end of the day as take-home meals, and even meals picked up weekly to be enjoyed at home. Chartwells is welcoming students back to the cafeteria this fall for breakfast and lunch, along with a la carte options.

"This year, it's easier than ever for students to enjoy breakfast and lunch at school and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to the cafeteria to eat together," said Pattie Guck, Director of Dining at Chartwells here at BPS. "Whether it's new and favorite menu items or the opportunity to eat at no cost, our team can't wait to serve up happy and healthy every day!"

Free Meal Information

We are pleased to inform you Birmingham Public Schools will be participating in the Seamless Summer Option as part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs for the School Year 2021-2022. A full student lunch includes a choice of an entrée, fruits, vegetables and a choice of milk. **In order to qualify as a complete FREE meal, students must select an entrée and a ½ cup of either a fruit or vegetable.**

We still need your household to fill out and sign the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application, at the link below.

<https://www.lunchapp.com/>

This information is critical in determining the amount of money that Birmingham Public Schools receives from a variety of State and Federal supplemental programs like Title I A, At-risk (31a), Title II A, E-Rate, etc.

These supplemental programs have the potential to offer supports and services for our students & families including, but not limited to:

- Instructional supports (staff, supplies & materials, etc.)
- Non-instructional services (counseling, social work, health services, etc.)
- Professional Learning for staff
- Parent and Community engagement supplies and activities
- Technology
- Pandemic-EBT

We are asking that you please complete and submit it as soon as possible to ensure that additional funding for our school is available to meet the needs of our students. All information on the application submitted is confidential. Without your assistance in completing and returning the attached application, our school cannot maximize the use of available State and Federal funds.

Programs that Encourage Fun and Discovery

Chartwells continues to inspire healthy eating habits and spark a culinary curiosity to last a lifetime through fun and engaging programs.

- **Discovery Kitchen:** Designed to make nutrition education fun and entertaining, Chartwells chefs and dietitians have worked together to create curriculums that get kids cooking, trying new foods, and learning about what they're eating. Each month has a different theme and activities will be adapted for the current meal programs.
- **Mood Boost:** This innovative program helps elementary and middle school students connect what they eat with how they feel. It features recipes and characters that focus on six moods: Smart, Happy, Confident, Alert, Strong and Calm.
- **Student Choice:** Giving middle and high school students a voice in deciding what food concepts are featured and new menu items that will be available, Student Choice brings the latest food trends to school menus.

Inviting Environments & Happy Cafeterias

Students need a place to eat where they can connect with others, recharge, and enjoy a sense of happiness, especially following a year where kids weren't always able to sit and enjoy a meal with their classmates.

Menus and Nutrition Facts at Your Fingertips

Chartwells K12 continues to bring technology to the forefront of the dining experience to help students and their parents prioritize healthy food choices and understand

ingredients so they can help protect children from allergic reactions. Through Nutrislice, an innovative app, students, parents and faculty have access to school menus, including nutrition information, allergens and photos. Nutrislice can be downloaded for free from the App store (iOS) or Google Play (Android) and is available on desktop and mobile devices. Menus are also available at <https://birmingham.nutrislice.com/>

About Chartwells K12

Chartwells K12's goal is to make sure students leave the cafeteria happier and healthier than they came in, by serving food kids love to eat and creating custom dining programs. With more than 16,000 associates in 4,400 schools, ranging from large public institutions to small charter and private schools, Chartwells K12 is built on decades of food, education and operational experience driven by top culinary, nutrition, wellness, and sustainability talent. For more information, visit www.ChartwellsK12.com.

Lunch Account Information

Each student has their own lunch account. Lunch accounts should be prepaid. They are not to be used as a charge account; rather, much like a checking or debit account. If your student's BPS breakfast/lunch account ([Send Money to School](#)) currently has a negative balance we please ask that you pay this balance as soon as possible.

Stay Connected

Get the most up to date information at our BPS website
<https://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/Page/1180>

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call BPS Director of Dining Services, Pattie Guck (248)228-7172 or email pguck@birmingham.k12.mi.us

