

# **Allendale Christian School**

## **Introduction to National School Lunch Program**

Allendale Christian School will be providing a 5 - day a week lunch program again this year. It is a National School Lunch Program (NSLP) which is in collaboration with the USDA. The USDA regulates the school meal patterns and provides guidelines for serving size and nutrition standards. Each meal must consist of the five components as determined by federal regulations. It is an Offer versus Serve program.

### **What are the five components?**

The five food components:

Meat / Meat Alternative (cheese, yogurt, etc.)

Grain

Fruit

Vegetable

Liquid Milk

Every lunch must offer the five components, however a child does not have to get all five components. A child must choose at least three components with one being a fruit or a vegetable.

### **What is Offer versus Serve?**

Offer versus Serve is a concept adopted by Congress in 1975. It allows students to select foods they prefer and reduce waste. Under this concept, a student is offered all five components; however they must choose at least three components with one component being a fruit or a vegetable. This will qualify as a reimbursable meal.

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### Lunch Prices:

Reimbursable Lunch- Elementary	\$2.35
Reimbursable Lunch- Middle School*	\$2.40***
Extra Entree with Reimbursable Lunch	\$1.00
Extra Jets Pizza slice with Reimbursable Lunch	\$1.50
Teachers and Staff	\$3.40

### Al Carte' Items

Milk only	\$0.55
Entree only	\$2.00
Additional Entree only	\$2.00
Side Items	\$0.30

\*\*\*New this year- With the rise of the required requirements for Middle School students, Middle school will have their own menu that will offer more food selections and items.

### Food Allergies:

If your child has any food allergies please let us know. We want to work with you to provide safe options for your child.

Parents may call or email **Rebecca Bruggink** at **616-893-5560** or **hotlunch@allendalechristian.com**.

Thank you

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### What is a reimbursable meal?

A reimbursable meal is a lunch that has at least three of the five components with one of the components being a fruit or a vegetable.

For each reimbursable meal that is served our school will receive money from the State, whether the lunch is free, reduced, or full pay.

### Below is a sample lunch menu that children could pick from:

Hamburger  
Potato Smiles  
Carrots/Cucumbers  
Orange Slices  
Grapes  
Milk

Look how easy it is to create a reimbursable lunch: **Each of these lunches will cost \_\_\_\_\_**

Lunch #1 - This lunch has meat, grain and vegetable.

Hamburger  
Potato Smiles

Lunch #2 - This lunch has meat, grain, milk, and two vegetables.

Hamburger  
Carrots/Cucumbers  
Milk  
Potato Smiles

Lunch #3 - This lunch has vegetable, fruit and milk.

Potato Smiles  
Orange Slices  
Milk

### Example of a reimbursable lunch with an extra entrée.

This lunch has meat, grain, milk, and two vegetables plus an extra hamburger (so 2 hamburgers total)

2- Hamburgers  
Carrots/Cucumbers  
Milk  
Potato Smiles

### Examples of a Non-reimbursable Lunches:

Lunch #1 - This lunch has meat, grain and milk but no fruit or vegetable. This meal would cost \$2.55

Hamburger and Milk

Lunch #2 - This lunch has meat and grain but no fruit or vegetable. This meal would cost \$2.00

Hamburger

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## Introduction to the National School Lunch Program

**We will be using The Meal Magic Student Account System to manage the students account. The Meal Magic Student Account System is:**

- Designed like a debit account, it eliminates the need for students to carry cash to school.
- Allows you to deposit money to a student account for use on any day, eliminating the morning lunch money hassle.
- Simple, convenient and designed to improve our services.
- Improves the speed of our lunch lines, giving students more time to eat.
- Protects the identity and privacy of students receiving meal benefits.

### **How do I set up a student account?**

An account can be set up at [SendMoneyToSchool.com](http://SendMoneyToSchool.com). Each child will need their own account. **Please set the account up prior to the beginning of the school year to avoid processing delays.** A nominal fee may apply for deposits made into the account. **A \$10 fee will be assessed for all NSF and invalid bank account numbers.**

You have the ability to set up your own "low balance e-mail" through Sendmoneytoschool. Go to "your account" then "edit your e-mail preferences" to set that up.

\*\*\*\* If your child(ren) attended ACS last year, your child(ren)'s ID are the same. If your child(ren) are new to ACS, their ID number(s) are included with this mailing.

### **Can I still send a check to school?**

-Absolutely. Meal deposits may be sent to school with your student in an envelope. Please label the envelope to Food Services and include the student's first and last name and teacher's name. Envelopes may be dropped off in the hot lunch box in the rotunda.

If you prefer, your deposit can be mailed to:

Allendale Christian School

Attn: Food Services

11050 64<sup>th</sup> Ave

Allendale, MI 49401

Please make checks payable to **ACS/Food Services**. Also include your student's first and last name on the check. **A \$10 fee will be assessed for all returned checks.**

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### **What if I do not have access to the internet?**

-We are happy to assist you in maintaining your student's account. Please contact Rebecca Bruggink at [hotlunch@allendalechristian.com](mailto:hotlunch@allendalechristian.com) or (616)893-5560 and she will place you on a list to receive reminder slips to be sent home with your student. Once per week the reminder slips will be sent home if the account reaches a balance of \$6 or less.

### **Free and Reduced Lunches**

-ACS is happy to be able to offer free and reduced lunches to those who qualify. Please go to [Lunchapp.com](http://Lunchapp.com) to complete the application. A new application must be completed every year. If you do not submit a new application by the end of September your child will automatically be charged the full price at the beginning of October. You will be responsible for the charges incurred because of the late submission. If you need a paper application please call or e-mail Rebecca Bruggink at (616)893-5560 or [hotlunch@allendalechristian.com](mailto:hotlunch@allendalechristian.com). All applicants are confidential.

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE\*\*\* If your family qualifies for Free/Reduced Lunches, this includes a reimbursable meal. If your child only chooses to take a milk, double entrée or an entree only, you are responsible for the cost of those items.

We look forward to a great year.

Many blessings,

Rebecca Bruggink