



Dear Amherst Families:

I have some exciting news to share. Starting Nov. 1, 2023, all students enrolled in Amherst Central School District will be able to receive one breakfast and one lunch each day for no charge.

This is a result of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) expanding access to the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). CEP allows eligible schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to offer school meals at no charge to all students.

What does this mean for you and your children? Starting Wednesday, Nov. 1, all students at Amherst Central High School, Amherst Middle School, Windermere Boulevard Elementary and Smallwood Drive Elementary are eligible to receive one school breakfast and one school lunch at no cost to your household. In the cafeteria, students will continue to go through the line and provide their student ID number at checkout, just like they do now. This new provision only pertains to full breakfast and lunch meals. A la carte items, such as snacks, ice cream, and additional food and beverage items must still be purchased.

No further action is required of you; you do not need to submit any applications or paperwork in order to receive free meals. Families that qualify for reduced rates or waivers on SAT, ACT, PSAT and AP exams will be required to complete an income form in place of the meal application form previously used.

If you have been notified by the district that you have an outstanding balance on your child's lunch account, you are still responsible for the payment of that balance. We will continue to send letters home with balances due and instructions for payment arrangements.

For families that have pre-paid funds on their MySchoolBucks accounts, those funds may continue to be used for additional food items, beverages and snacks. If you prefer, remaining funds will be returned to you upon request by emailing our School Lunch Manager, Ms. Tracey Ogilvie at togilvie@amherstschoosls.org.

If you have any further questions, please contact Nutrition Services at 716-362-3025.

Thank you,

Anthony J. Panella,
Superintendent