

## USDA Offers Free Meals to All Students

Dear PT Families,

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture recently announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will provide free school meals throughout the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.

Beginning Monday, September 14, all Peters Township students will be eligible for one free reimbursable meal whether they are attending class in-person or remote. Note that this does not include extra a la carte items or second meals if applicable at your school currently. Families with children who are not yet school-age are also eligible for meals under this program.

Students attending in-person school have the option of a packed lunch or they can take advantage of this free option. (The procedures for ordering lunch remain the same.)

Remote students can pick-up their meal(s) at the High School on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. (This is subject to change when the new High School opens.) Please see the Food Service page of the website for details and to request this service.

Families who wish to use this service for children who are not yet school-aged may request meals via the remote student form as well.

All current student lunch account balances can be utilized for à la carte options and/or remain in the account for usage once the free meal plan has ended.

Because this is a temporary program, it is essential that families continue to turn in free and reduced lunch applications if they wish to have meal assistance when the COVID-19 relief funds have been depleted (anticipated to be January 1st). This also means that any insufficient funds that were in your food service account will remain until your account balance is reconciled.

We appreciate that the USDA has provided these meals for our children in this extraordinary situation. We recognize that it remains critically important for our children to continue to receive healthy and nutritious food during this COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Sincerely,

Christina Chamberlin  
Food Service Director  
Aramark K-12 Education