

## **HOT LUNCH**

On March 17, 2023, Governor Walz signed the MN Free School Meals bill into law. The MN Free School Meals Program is a permanent program that provides state reimbursement to schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program so that students can have one breakfast and one lunch at no cost at school. The Free School Meals Program began on July 1, 2023.

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### **MEAL CHARGE POLICY**

- I. PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent meal account procedures for St. Mary's Catholic School in Tracy, MN.
  
- II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**
  - St. Mary's Catholic School recognizes the parent/guardian's responsibility to provide one free breakfast and one free lunch, per day, for their children. Proper nutritional intake is essential for adequate learning to occur.
  - It is the policy of St. Mary's Catholic School to offer one free breakfast and one free lunch per day. The Food Service Department strives to produce quality meals at a reasonable cost.
  - A small fee will be charged if a student gets a second entree or extra milk and will be billed monthly.
  - Little Echoes Preschool is licensed as a Child Care Facility, and is a separate entity from St. Mary's Kindergarten–sixth grade program. Little Echoes Preschool students will be charged for breakfast and lunch.
  
- III. PROCEDURES FOR NOTIFYING FAMILY OF ACCOUNT STATUS**
  - A. The Parent/Guardian of Pre-school students will be notified when the household account is at \$10.00 or less.
  - B. The method, for notifying the parent/guardian of children in the Pre-School will be a monthly statement sent home.
  - C. A debt collections agency will not be used by the SFA
  - D. Once a participant has placed a meal on a tray or otherwise served the meal to a student, the meal may not be subsequently withdrawn from the student by the cashier or other school official, whether or not the student has an outstanding meals balance
  - E. Any student who has been determined eligible for free and reduced-price lunch must always be served a reimbursable meal even if the student has an outstanding debt

- F. If the account is negative, the school will call the family. If the household cannot be reached, a letter will be sent home.
- G. Assistance from county Social Services may be requested by the school for possible neglect when above procedures are unsuccessful.

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