



Warren Consolidated Schools

Creating Dynamic Futures through Student Achievement, High Expectations, and Strong Relationships

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NUTRITION SERVICES

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Welcome Back! We are very excited to serve our students, as we understand the direct correlation between healthy eating and academic success. In addition to lunches, the Nutrition Services Department offers a variety of easy-to-eat nutritional breakfasts served out of the cafeteria each morning at least 15 minutes prior to the start of school. Our school breakfast program gives hardworking parents a hand in meeting their child's nutritional needs without interrupting the school day or taking away from important learning.

We are very excited to inform you that **ALL** schools will participate in a National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program called Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for school year 2024-2025. **All students will be eligible for a FREE complete breakfast and complete lunch.** We still need each household to **complete the Education Benefits Form.** This form is *critical* in determining the amount of money that our schools receive from a variety of State and Federal supplemental programs. These programs have the potential to offer supports and services to students, 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

This application can be completed online, the convenient and confidential website allows for quicker processing than the paper applications. The link to <https://warren.familyportal.cloud/> is available at the WCS Nutrition Services website which can be found within the WCS homepage. Simply select Apply for Benefits. A new benefits form must be completed each school year. A paper version of the form is available at your school office.

What qualifies as a FREE complete breakfast or lunch? In order for your child to receive their free meals, students must take the necessary components to each meal. Breakfast meals include up to 2 grains and/or meat or meat alternative, up to 2 fruits, and milk. Students must take at least ½ cup of fruit with two more items that qualify. Lunch meals include a grain, meat/meat alternative, vegetable, fruit, and milk. Students must take 3 of the 5, with one being ½ cup of fruit or vegetable. There are many times Nutrition Services staff member will ask the students to take something additional on their tray to ensure the students meal qualify for the free program.

Online Payments for Ala carte Purchases at the Secondary Schools: Food items such as baked chips, whole grain cookies, reduced fat ice cream, and alternative beverages will be available to purchase in the secondary buildings and are not part of the free meals. These items can be paid for with cash at the register, however, we encourage online deposits with a credit card to be made to a student's nutrition account. *We will not extend credit of ala carte purchases.* If you haven't already, you will need to create an account with the new Meal Magic Family Portal. This link is available on the district website <https://warren.familyportal.cloud/>. Follow the prompts to set up your account. It is an excellent way to track all transactions that take place in the cafeteria.

Menus: The menu links are posted on the district and all school websites. You will need to select the school and which menu you would like to look at. Nutritional information about all items served to students can be found on the link, and you can select the desired language you would like to see the menu in. This school year, you will also be able download an app to your phone to see this information in a mobile friendly format. Instructions for how to find this app can be found on the WCS Nutrition Services website.

Allergies: Students with food allergies can be accommodated by our staff. The Michigan Department of Education's *Request for Special Dietary Needs Accommodations* form needs to be completed with a doctor's list of substitutions and the doctor's signature in order to make menu modifications. This form can be found under the Nutrition Services tab of the district website. Alternative menus may be available, please contact with the district's School Nurse and the Director of Nutrition Services. A new form needs to be completed each school year.

Latchkey Snacks and Half Day Lunches: After school snacks will be provided by the Nutrition Services staff for elementary students attending latchkey. These snacks meet nutritional guidelines set forth by the USDA. Students must take the entire snack, which consists of two items from one of these groups: grains, proteins, fruit, vegetable, or fluid milk. Students attending latchkey on a scheduled half day will have the ability to order a cold lunch for free. Order forms will be provided by the latchkey staff.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: The Nutrition Services is looking to hire dedicated individuals to work in the kitchens, there are many openings that need to be filled. This job allows you to coordinate a work schedule consistent with your child's schedule, while earning money. There are numerous part time and full time positions. If you are interested in learning more about working in our school kitchens, please call the Nutrition Service Department at 586.698.4157.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.