

Frequently Asked Questions:

Did You Know?

- Centennial School District's Nutrition Services serves an average of 4,638 lunches each day. Nutrition Services also provides breakfast to students grades K-8.
- Nutrition Services employs over 56 people, each cook/manager is Serv-Safe certified via the National Restaurant Association and is also certified through the School Nutrition Association.
- The school food service program is self-supporting. Revenue sources include government reimbursement for student meals served, government commodities, student meals, ala carte sales, and adult paid meals.
- Over the past two decades, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reduced the levels of fat, sodium and sugar in commodities, while keeping them tasty and acceptable to children.
- USDA promotes fruits and vegetables as an important part of a nutritious diet. In fiscal year 2007, the government purchased \$378 million of fruits and vegetables for its nutrition programs.
- For the last decade, all canned fruits are packaged in light syrup, water or natural juice. Unsweetened applesauce is now available to schools.
- Butter has not been offered to schools since 1997.
- In 2008, trans fats were eliminated from frozen potato products.
- Several varieties of low- and reduced-fat cheeses, plus other lower-fat items are now available.
- In 2008, whole-grain spaghetti and rotini were added as new products.
- Most USDA canned vegetables meet the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's healthy standard for sodium, which is less than or equal to 480 mg per serving. For school year 2009, the USDA will purchase some low-sodium canned vegetables with the goal of reducing the sodium levels of all canned vegetables to 140 mg per serving by the 2010 school year. Schools continue to have the option to order salt-free frozen vegetables.
- For school year 2009-10, the sugar in chocolate milk has gone from 26 grams to 22 grams per serving, and the sugar in strawberry milk has gone from 28 to 22 grams of sugar.

General Questions about Centennial's School Nutrition Program

Question: How much taxpayer money is used to operate the school nutrition program?

Answer: Centennial School District's Nutrition Services is a self-sustaining operation. No funds from the district's General Fund are used in the operation of School Nutrition Services (SNS). SNS receives money from the federal and state government through the National School Lunch Program.

Question: What is the system used to collect money in the school nutrition department?

Answer: Centennial School District's Nutrition Services uses a pre-paid computerized system that allows the district to provide better service to both students and parents. Each student is assigned a personal identification number (PIN) at their school or when enrolled in the district. Students will keep the same PIN at each school they attend. When a student moves to a new building, a new PIN will be assigned. For instance, while a student at Rice Lake, a PIN would remain the same for grades K-5. When the fifth grader enters middle school as a sixth grader, he/she will be assigned a new PIN. At mealtimes, students enter their PIN on a keypad, state their name, and the amount of their meal is debited from their balance.

Question: How can I make deposits to a child's account?

Answer: Prepaying for breakfast, lunch and ala carte items is the most efficient way to pay for a student's purchases. Parents may pay by check or via credit card. If paying with a check, please list the student's full name in the memo section along with their PIN. This allows for the correct deposit to be made to the correct account. Payments can also be made to a student's account using www.paypams.com, a secure, online site for credit card payments. This fast and friendly site allows parents to view a student's meal transactions, receive an e-mail alert regarding a student's low meal balance, or make a payment without cost. Sign up the service using the child's birthday. Deposits need to be made by 9:30 a.m. to be available for lunch that day. No deposits are allowed in the cafeteria as this slows the service line and increases the risk of payments being lost or misplaced.

Question: What happens to a child's money at the end of the school year?

Answer: If a child has money left on his/her account at the end of the school year, that money will be available on the first day of school the following year. All balances, whether there is a credit or debit, follow the student from year to year.