

From the Village Kitchen

Thank you, Village School Families, for your continued support of our food service program. We are proud to prepare meals from scratch using mostly whole, organic, and local foods. We look forward to returning to our kitchen very soon and getting back to the work we love.

The success of our meal program is largely due to many dedicated volunteers who help prep, serve, and clean every school day. We welcome you to be a part of this extraordinary program.

A kitchen volunteer orientation and training is scheduled for September 5th from 9:45-10:45. Please join us in the cafeteria.

We are looking for some temporary helpers for the first few weeks of the school year as we settle back in, get new volunteers trained, and put together a regular volunteer schedule. Please let us know if you can come in for an hour or two during the first few weeks of the school year.

As you look over the monthly menu with your child, please keep the following in mind:

- Each lunch includes milk as well as fresh fruits and vegetables from our salad bar.
- Our milk is local and organic from Umpqua Dairy.
- We order a majority of our produce from local, organic farmers and through Organically Grown Company.
- Most of our dried goods come from Hummingbird Wholesale, a locally owned and operated distributor.
- In order to maintain an affordable and sustainable program all meals are vegetarian.
 - Vegan options are available every day.
- Gluten free meals are indicated by "GF" on the menu.
- If your child has a food allergy, please fill out the food allergy form in the office and speak with us before sending them through the lunch line.
 - Family and friends are welcome to join us for meals in the cafeteria. (See "Procedures and Payments" below for more information.)
- Menu items are subject to change if/when unforeseen circumstances occur.
- The more people who participate in our meal program, the stronger our healthy school lunch program will be!

Feel free to contact us with questions about The Village Kitchen.

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The Village Kitchen Procedures & Payments

Qualifying for Free and Reduced Meals

Families can complete the Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) application to qualify for free or reduced price breakfasts and lunches. We encourage you to complete an application even if you think you do not qualify. This information also helps our school qualify for Title I funding which benefits the whole school. The instructions and application for FARM are included in this mailing and can be found on the school website or in the office.

Student Prices

If you qualify for free or reduced meals, your child is entitled to a free breakfast and a free lunch each day.

Families that do not qualify for free or reduced prices will pay the standard meal price:

\$1.75 for breakfast

\$3.75 for lunch

A-la-carte milk is \$0.50.

Payments

Payments of check or cash are received in the school office starting now. Credit Card payments can be made online. Please do not bring payments to the kitchen. We ask that payments be paid in increments of 20 meals at a minimum. Payments can also be made in increments of 30, 40 and more.

For example:

- A student in any grade who pays the full price buys 20 lunches for \$75.00- ($\3.75×20).
- A student in any grade who pays the full price buys 20 breakfasts for \$35.00- ($\1.75×20).

This payment process will help our administrative staff manage the Village Kitchen billing system. **Please make cash / check payments in the office for your student's meals.**

We expect parents to be aware of their student's balance and communicate with the office if payment is delayed. If you have an unpaid balance, we communicate this via email weekly.

We will communicate your student's balance and expectations on maintaining adequate funds. We also accept online payments with a small credit card processing fee. If you have not done so yet, you can create an account online at www.mealtime.com where you can make online payments and check your balance. Be mindful that unpaid balances negatively affect our school meal program. Thank you for your cooperation.

Breakfast Procedures

We serve breakfast every school day. Breakfast service begins at 8:00 and ends at 8:20. At 8:20, students must leave the cafeteria for their classrooms. *Please ensure your child comes early enough to finish eating breakfast by 8:20am.* If a child would like breakfast but arrives after 8:20, they must first get permission from their teacher before coming to the cafeteria.

Lunch Procedures

Grades K-4

Lunch for students in Kindergarten through 4th grade begins between 11:40 and 12:00. Children walk with their teacher to the cafeteria, line-up, take a tray with an entree and then visit the salad bar for fresh fruits and vegetables. Our cafeteria staff will ensure that each child has a complete meal and will enter their meal ID numbers. Milk is served in the classroom.

Grades 5-8

Lunch for students in grades 5-8 begins at 12:30 or 12:48. Students line up outside the cafeteria, then take a tray with an entree, visit the salad bar for fresh fruits and vegetables and serve themselves milk. They enter their meal ID number with the supervision of cafeteria staff and eat in the cafeteria.

Milk

We serve organic milk from Umpqua Dairy. Both 1% and non-fat milk are available with every meal. Milk may be purchased a-la-carte for students who wish to bring lunch from home. These students will sign up for milk with the cafeteria staff person. Milk is served to K-4 children in their classrooms. Grades 5-8 will serve themselves a glass of milk in the cafeteria.

Non-student Meals

We warmly welcome family and friends to join us for meals. When visiting for a meal, please come to the office, sign in, procure your personalized badge, and pay for your meal. You will receive a meal ticket in the office to take to the healthy lunch ladies in the cafeteria. Non-student breakfasts are \$3.00 and lunches are \$7.00. Family and friends will eat their breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria, not in the classroom. If you would like to volunteer in the classroom during lunch, please contact your child's teacher.

*ID numbers are assigned by the office specifically for our mealtime program. Students will learn their four digit number when they come to the cafeteria, school staff help the children with this.