

FAC FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES

Recently, there have been several questions to the School Advisory Committee (SAC) about school lunches. So, here are the answers to your Frequently Asked Questions!

How many lunches are prepared?

At the beginning of the school day, students are asked whether or not they will be having a school lunch and whether they will choose a salad, or the main entrée offered that day. They also indicate, at that time, whether they will have lunch plus or not. The tally is sent to the office, who forwards the information to the lunchroom. The lunchroom takes the number, then adds 15%. This ensures that there are enough lunches for all children, even those who arrive after the tally is taken.

Last year, there was a problem with too few lunches in the later periods.

This problem appears to have been fixed; however, the lunchroom staff will continue to monitor this issue.

When is lunch?

The first school lunches are served at 11:30 and the last serving is at approximately 12:45.

Last year, the lunchroom was really crowded. How has this been handled given the additional students?

This year, the tables have been rotated, thus eliminating wasted space. Teachers have commented that their classes actually appear to have more room than last year. There are approximately 175 students in the HS Forum at any given time. There are 6 additional tables to accommodate any growth that may occur throughout the year.

Can I eat lunch with my child?

Yes! Please come share lunch with your child. Speak with his/her teacher to find out their lunchtime and meet them in the cafeteria. You can sit with the classroom (yes, there's plenty of room), or you can eat at one of the overflow tables in the corner closest to the school's main entrance. Please don't forget to sign in at the front desk before entering the cafeteria.

My child says she doesn't have enough time to eat.

Students have approximately 45 minutes for lunch and recess combined. This includes about 5 minutes to get through the lunch line, for those eating school lunches. After 20 minutes in the lunchroom, a school monitor alerts the children that those who have completed their lunches may line up for recess. Those children who need more time can

stay in the lunchroom until they are completed, up until the 45 min time limit has been reached.

How much does lunch cost?

School lunch is \$2.05 and includes one hot entrée, sides, and a milk.

I may qualify for a reduced or free lunch. How can I sign up for that?

Reduced (entrée for \$.40) and free lunches are offered for some families. Please inquire at the front office for information on this program.

My child doesn't like the entrée. Is there another option?

For those students who do not care for the hot entrée, a salad is also available. The salad consists of iceberg lettuce, red cabbage, carrots, tomatoes, cucumber, and cheese. Low-calorie dressing is available. In order for the child to receive the salad, he/she should tell the lunchroom attendant he/she does not want an entree, continue to the end of the line, then take the salad. If a child takes the entrée and the salad, they will be charged for two entrees. In the coming weeks, students will have the option of the above salad, or a salad with turkey instead of cheese. The student still receives all the sides and the milk, in addition to the salad for the \$2.05 price.

My child is still hungry after lunch. Is there a way to order him/her more food?

Students may order an extra entrée for an additional \$.75. The student only needs to sign up for Lunch Plus at the beginning of the day, during the lunch count. Once they arrive in the food line, the student alerts the food service attendants before they receive their initial entrée that they want "Lunch Plus". Once a student exits the line, they are not permitted to return for "seconds."

My child does not like milk or is allergic to milk. Is there another option?

If a student does not like milk or has an allergy to milk, he/she may take a bottle of water or juice (located at the end of the line), but there is an **extra charge**. Charges are listed at the end of the e-mail.

My child would like to take water or juice to the playground. Can he?

No lunch may be taken to the playground – this includes water bottles.

The lunch menu on the DODEA website says we have a choice of entrée, but my child says he hasn't seen more than one. What is the menu?

The lunch menu available on DODEA websites is not available at PES. The school lunch menu forwarded from the PES office has the correct entrée; however, not all of the sides

are available at this time. All sides available on the lunch line at this time are offered to the students. They may take all of these sides and not be charged extra. This may change over the next months as more options become available. We will attempt to keep you informed. Milk is not considered a side item as is written on the menu, rather it is always included.

I heard a rumor that a second entrée will be added to the serving line.

AAFES and PES are exploring a second line; however, there are no firm plans at this time.

I have not received the e-mail from the PES office with the menu. How can I receive one?

If you did not receive the menu, please check with the PES office to make sure they have your current e-mail address. The menu can be sent to your work e-mail as well.

How do I set up a lunch account for my child?

New lunch accounts must be opened at the PX Customer Service on Panzer. Lunch accounts must also be closed there.

Where can I add more money to my child's account and where can I view the balance?

Parents can pay for school lunches and view current balances at the PES cafeteria between 0800-1030 and 1300-1400. The PES cafeteria can only accept cash and checks, not credit cards. Parents can also pay for and view accounts at the Panzer PX Customer Service. They will accept cash, check, and credit cards. There is a 24-48 hr delay between a change in the account at Panzer and the records at the PES cafeteria. Children can also bring in money to add to their account. We recommend placing the money in a well-labeled envelope with the child's name and teacher.

I gave my child's account enough money for 10 lunches. She only had 8 and there's no money left. What happened?

If a child opts not to take milk and chooses a juice instead, they are charged \$2.05 for the lunch, plus \$.90 for the "optional" juice. Or, if the child opts for Lunch Plus, then they receive two entrees for \$2.80. The optional items quickly add to the total.

My child has a serious allergy to a particular food item. Can I block him from receiving items with this product?

Yes, parents must request this option through the PES cafeteria or through the PX on Panzer. When the child meets cafeteria personnel at the register, his allergy information will show up on the screen and the staff will ensure his food is safe. This is highly

encouraged, since there are instances when menu items will change due to late shipments and parents will have little notice.

My child has a serious allergy to peanuts and should not even sit next to a child with nuts. What should I do?

Parents with airborne food allergy concerns should talk to the child's teacher and/or the PES Principal to develop a plan for lunch seating that will be acceptable.

I want my child blocked from being able to buy the "optional" items, such as juice and milkshakes. Is there a way to do that?

Yes, parents must request this option through the PES cafeteria or through the PX on Panzer. Keep in mind; however, that once this option is selected, then accounts can not have a negative balance.

I forgot to add money to my child's account. Will they be fed?

If a child does not have money on their account, he/she will still be allowed to eat and a negative balance will show on the account. The child will be told by the cashier that their parents need to send in money. A negative account balance of \$5.00 will generate a letter to the home reminding parents of payment. Children will not be refused a meal.

My child brings a lunch to school. Can she buy a drink?

Yes. She may purchase a milk, juice, water, or milkshake.

What are the prices of the optional items that my child may choose?

Milk (Plain or Chocolate) - \$.50

Capri Sun (usually apple or berry 100% juice) - \$.90

100% juice box (usually apple or orange) - \$.90

Chocolate, Vanilla, or Strawberry Milkshake - \$.75

Small Culligan water, Fluoride added - \$.45

Extra Entrée (also called Lunch Plus) - \$.75 (this can only be purchased as an add-on for another entrée)

Salad (in addition to lunch entrée) - \$2.05

We hope that clears up your questions. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to ask a SAC member.