



MEAL CHARGE POLICY - SCHOOL YEAR 2017-18

Did you know that Child Nutrition Services (CNS) uses a special revenue fund that strives to not receive General Fund support from the District? We must balance our budget through meal sales, snack sales and state/federal reimbursements. Coronado Unified School District has a meal system which has been adopted at all of our schools. The system goals are to:

- Treat all students with dignity and respect
- Maintain a positive experience for your child during meal service
- Establish practices that are age appropriate and
- Promote parent responsibility for meal payments and self-responsibility of the student.

As of the school year 2017-18, the prices for the Island Café will be raised by \$.25 at each school site. The Elementary School price will be \$3.25 per paid meal and the Middle/High School price will be \$3.75 per paid meal. The reduced price of \$.40, for those families that qualify, will stay the same. This decision was made based on the increased cost of doing business in addition to the improvements made to the CNS Department over the 2016-17 school year. These would include: better quality ingredients by reducing the amount of by products and fillers in our food, partnering with a farm to school program to bring fresher/locally available produce to our cafés, increasing the variety of foods available to our students each day, and serving more made-from scratch options daily.

In addition, starting this school year, students at all grade levels will be allowed to purchase a second meal if they are still hungry after their first meal. The first meal will be purchased based on the status of the student on the meal program: \$3.25 or \$3.75 for paid, \$.40 for reduced, or free. The second meal can only be purchased at the regular price of \$3.25 or \$3.75 for all students regardless of their eligibility on the meal program. If the student has a negative balance, a second meal purchase will be denied. In addition, all a la carte sales at Middle/High School will be denied if the student has a negative balance.

If you do not want to allow your student to purchase a second meal, please contact the CNS Department and the request will be recorded on their account.

Payment in advance for meals enables the district to achieve the above goals. The following steps are taken so you and your student know when money is needed:

1. On the first day that your child arrives without money, the cashier will allow him/her to charge the meal to their account. We allow a total of 5 charges on the account (-\$16.25) at the elementary school level and 5 charges on the account (-\$18.75) at the middle/high school level.
2. On the day your child arrives without money to pay the charges as outlined above, we will feed him/her an alternate meal consisting of a sandwich, fruit, vegetable, and milk. Your child will receive this alternate meal until the balance is paid in full or an adequate payment plan is set up with the CNS Department.

* If your child owes money at the start of the school year, this was a carryover debt from the previous year. Please pay this bill promptly as your child will receive an alternate meal as outlined above.

* You may also designate that your child can never charge and we will record that request on the account.

3. Parents/Guardians are expected to keep track of their child's account. Each day, as a courtesy, the CNS Department will send an automated email to the registered Parent/Guardian when the child's balance is -\$3.00 or more. Please avoid this by ensuring the account does not go negative.

4. In May/June of each year parents will be contacted to pay their outstanding charges. Students in the 5th, 8th, and 12th grades with a negative balance may not be permitted to participate in end of the year activities and may not receive their report card or graduation certificate. Students in other grades with a negative balance may not receive their report cards.

Payments may be made by cash or check at each of our school offices. For your convenience, credit card charges can be made online by logging on to ezschoolpay.com and setting up an account. You can also view your child's account balance anytime and receive reminder emails by going to <http://www.ezschoollpay.com>.

To apply for free or reduced-price meals, please complete a meal application online at <https://ezmealapp.com> or in the school office. **All meals purchased prior to the benefits issuance date will be charged at full price and will need to be paid by the Parent/Guardian.**

Please assist us in making the meal experience pleasant every day by ensuring your child has adequate funds available. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Charity Johnson, MS, RD, CLE

Director, Child Nutrition Services

619-522-8907 x2085

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