

WELCOME BACK!



DEAR PARENTS,

The beginning of the school year is quickly approaching, and we would like to extend a warm welcome to let you know that Whitsons School Nutrition has a comprehensive plan to meet all of our student meal needs. Our goal is to serve nutritious, well-balanced meals that appeal to students while continuing our safe food handling practices that we always have. With the new challenges presented by Covid-19 we will be particularly focused on new ways to deliver the quality and variety our students and families have come to expect, all while meeting the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program requirements.

In this letter you will find where to locate resources and information in addition to our plan for the hybrid model Ellington Public Schools has adopted for the start of the school year. Please keep in mind that as we move forward through the year and circumstances evolve, we will be posting our changes to this document on the Ellington Public School webpage www.ellingtonpublicschools.org/parents/food.

DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lindsay Steller, RD **Food Service Director** 860-896-2339 x301
lsteller@ellingtonschools.net

Hannah Yoo, RD **Administrative Assistant / Determining Official**
860-896-2339 x301 foodservice@ellingtonschools.net

Susan Trotter **EHS Manager** 860-896-2352 x104 strotter@ellingtonschools.net

Fran Durgan **EMS Manager** 860-896-2339 x300

Dixie Prouty **Windemere Manager** 860-896-2329 dprouty@ellingtonschools.net

Chris Debarge **Center School Manager** 860-896-2315 x205
cdebarge@ellingtonschools.net

Cheryl Dinse **Crystal Lake Manager** 860-896-2322
cdinse@ellingtonschools.net

FREE AND REDUCED MEAL APPLICATIONS

We are excited to announce that Online Applications for Free and Reduced Meals are now available through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. When you log onto your parent portal account, click 'More' then click 'Meal Benefits' to find the link to the online application. [Here is the link to Infinite Campus Portal:](#)

<https://ellingtonct.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/parents/ellington.jsp?>

We also have a printable version of the Free and Reduced Meal Application available at www.ellingtonpublicschools.org/parents/food

Please mail paper applications to:

Hannah Yoo at 46 Middle Butcher Rd. Ellington, CT 06029.



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If your student is returning, please be aware that last year's status expires on **October 20th**, and if the district has not received a new application, your students' status will be returned to paid. For more information about the free and reduced application process please email Hannah Yoo at foodservice@ellingtonschools.net



MEAL PRICES:

Free breakfast and lunch for everyone!!

Due to recent USDA waiver extensions related to COVID-19, Ellington Public Schools will be able to provide all breakfast and lunch meals free of charge until further notice. Per USDA, the program will continue until December 31, 2020 or until funds run out. Questions or concerns can be emailed to foodservice@ellingtonschools.net or you can call 860-896-2339 x301.

Low-fat milk is available with all reimbursable meals.

Initially upon re-opening the only a la carte items available for students to purchase will be an 8 oz milk for \$.60 and/or a 16.9 oz bottled water for \$1.25. Please make sure there is money in your student's meal account as they will not be allowed to purchase any a la carte items without money in the account. Please see below for details.

PAYMENTS: ONLINE, IN PERSON AND MONITORING ACCOUNTS

Due to Covid-19 we strongly encourage you to utilize the online payment system described below!

School Lunch Account Information:

Please visit www.payschoolscentral.com to set up an online account to manage your student's meal account

You will need to enter your student's 8-digit student ID number which can be found using the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If you need assistance locating this number, please contact the appropriate school kitchen manager using the contact information listed on the first page of this newsletter.

In person payment:

If you cannot add money using the online system, we ask you to please mail a check made payable to Ellington Food Service to your school's main office. Cashiers will check the main office for money at least once daily to enter into student accounts.

Please be aware, if you need to send in money with your student please make sure it is in an envelope with their name and teacher's name. We will ask the teacher to bring it to the main office at their convenience so it may not make it into your student's account in time for their next purchase.




WHITSONS[®]
School Nutrition

MEAL DISTRIBUTION

DISTANCE LEARNERS IN ALL ELLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Grab & Go Breakfast and Lunch meals will be available for pick-up Monday through Friday at Ellington High School outside the front entrance of the building from 9:00-10:30am. These meals are available for any student who is not in school learning on that day; students who are learning remotely or hybrid students on a distance learning day. Parents or guardians may pick up meals for their students without the student present, please be prepared to tell the food service staff the first and last name of the student(s) you are picking up for.

At this time there is no pre-order form requirements, if that changes we will email the order form instructions to parents and students directly. As of right now you can simply come to the front entrance of the school and our food service staff member will provide you with the meals needed

For any questions regarding our distance learner's meal pick up options, please contact Lindsay Steller at lsteller@ellingtonschools.net or 860-896-2339 x301

ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL IN-SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

Grab and Go Breakfast will be available for purchase in the Cafeteria and the Auditorium Foyer at 7:15am Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri. After they purchase breakfast, students will proceed directly to their classroom and will eat breakfast in the classroom.

Grab & Go Lunch will be available for purchase in the Cafeteria. Students will be allowed to enter the Cafeteria to buy lunch at the beginning of D, E, or F block depending on their schedule. Students will enter through the marked "Entrance" door, and line up in one of two lines based on their lunch preference: hot lunch or cold lunch. While in the cafeteria, students will remain socially distanced and must be wearing masks. As students move through the line they will tell staff their meal choices and be handed their lunch by staff based on their selection. When students get to the cashier they will tell the cashier their first and last name. Once their lunch has been processed by the cashier, students will report to their assigned classroom and will eat lunch in their classroom. For questions regarding Ellington High School's in-school meal service, please contact Susan Trotter at 860-896-2352 x104 or strotter@ellingtonschools.net

ELLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL IN-SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

Students may enter the building at 7:30am, go immediately to the cafeteria to purchase breakfast, eat breakfast in a designated socially-distanced area, and then report immediately to their homeroom.

Students will submit an order form during homeroom if they choose to purchase lunch from the Cafeteria. Hot and cold options will be available daily, food service staff will deliver an individually wrapped lunch bag to students in their designated eating location.

For questions regarding Ellington Middle School in-school meal service, please contact Lindsay Steller at 860-896-2339 x301 or email lsteller@ellingtonschools.net

ELLINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN-SCHOOL MEAL SERVICE

Individually wrapped breakfast kits and milk will be delivered to classrooms and offered to students to eat in their classroom in the morning on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Students will order their lunches in the morning from their classrooms with their teachers. Hot and cold options will be available daily. Food Service staff will deliver an individually wrapped lunch bag to students in their designated eating location.

For questions regarding Windemere Elementary School in-school meal service please contact Dixie Prouty at 860-896-2329 or dprouty@ellingtonschools.net



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For questions regarding Center Elementary School in-school meal service, please contact Chris Debarge at 860-896-2315 x205 or cdebarge@ellingtonschoools.net

For questions regarding Crystal Lake Elementary School in-school meal service, please contact Cheryl Dinse at 860-896-2322 or cdinse@ellingtonschoools.net

Please visit www.ellingtonpublicschools.org/parents/food for MENUS and other pertinent information. At all schools -all meal items will be pre-packaged or individually wrapped and served in a brown paper bag for easy disposal. All utensils will be disposable and individually wrapped. Students will not be allowed to share food or eating utensils.

OTHER INFORMATION:

To learn more about Whitsons, and to stay up to date with any changes to the food service in Ellington Public Schools please visit our website www.ellingtonpublicschools.org/parents/food.

For nutritional information including allergens please go to www.fdmealplanner.com and find your school.

We are excited about our continued partnership with Ellington Public Schools as we look ahead to another year of being part of the Ellington family. We have been privileged to assist the community consistently since the move to remote learning in March and all throughout the summer. We thank you for your support and encouragement of us as we all get through this pandemic together.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Steller

Lindsay Steller, RD
Food Service Director
lsteller@ellingtonschoools.net
860-896-2339 x301

