

## **Canton Local Meal Charge Policy**

Canton Local is honored to provide nutritious meals to our students and staff. The Nutrition Services Department is a self-sustaining enterprise fund and must generate funds through student and adult meal sales, smart snack sales, and federal and state reimbursements in order to pay all operating expenses. Canton Local has adopted a meal charge policy for students and staff and is as follows:

### **When a student forgets lunch money, we have established the following procedures to:**

- Treat all students with dignity and respect;
- Encourage parents to assume the responsibility of meal payments and to promote self-responsibility of the students;

### **Meal Charge / Alternative Meal Procedure**

1. When a student has less than \$3.00 prepaid lunches remaining in his/her lunch account, the cashier will remind the student to bring in lunch money.
2. If however a child's account reaches into the negative, the Nutrition Services Department will allow a maximum of \$18.00 worth of negative meal charges for all students, so they can continue to receive the nourishment they need, unless a student's parent / guardian has specifically provided written permission to the school to withhold a meal.
3. If a student has reached the \$18.00 threshold of negative meal charges, and still does not have money on their account or cash in hand to purchase a meal, we will offer them an alternate meal. The alternate meal is a chef salad with fruit, vegetable, and milk which we offer each day to all students with or without money, so as to avoid embarrassment for the student.
4. Parents will be notified via an email, phone call and/or letter home with the student that an alternative meal has been given, and that payment of all meal charges must be made. If after two alternative meals and attempts by the Nutrition Services Department to reach parents are unsuccessful, then the school's counselors, principals or others will contact the parent / guardian to offer assistance with a meal application, determine if there are other issues within the household that have caused the child to have insufficient funds to purchase a school meal and offer any other assistance that is appropriate.
5. Adults are not permitted to charge.

Meal Applications for free or reduced meals are available on our website and paper copies can be requested at any time of the year simply by calling 330-484-8010. All information is kept confidential and at no time will the Nutrition Services Department give out meal status information unless a parent requests that we do so.