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While the return to school this fall is not what any of us envisioned, I want to assure you the Carver Public Schools Nutritional Department is working hard to create a welcoming and safe environment to provide healthy meals for all students. We are so excited to see your children and provide them with nourishing and nutritious food that will support them, both in school and at home.

In March, when our schools closed because of COVID-19, the USDA (the federal agency that oversees the nation's school lunch and school breakfast program) allowed all schools in the US to provide meals at **no cost to all students** and that provision will now be extended through Sept 14th for Carver.

This free option will be available September 2nd-September 14th. Curb-side pickup of breakfast and lunch will be available for all K-12 students at the front entrance of **Carver Elementary School from 11:30-12:30** on the following dates:

Sept. 2nd	Wednesday	Pick up 2 breakfast & 2 lunches
Sept. 8th	Tuesday	Pick up 2 breakfast & 2 lunches
Sept. 10th	Thursday	Pick up 2 breakfast & 2 lunches
Sept. 14th	Monday	Pick up 2 breakfast & 2 lunches

Massachusetts understands the vital importance of providing meals at no cost for all students across the state and has requested that the USDA extend free meals for all students for the upcoming school year. However, no decision has been made by the USDA.

Therefore, once school **reopens** on September 16th, as for now, we have to go back to the way that we provided meals before COVID-19, which means that students who have submitted an application and are approved for free and reduced price school meals will receive their meals at either the free or reduced price. Students who are not eligible for free or reduced priced meals will be charged for their meals, in the same way as in previous years. We strongly encourage families to complete an application for free and reduced priced meals which will be included in the back to school information packets sent home with your student during the first weeks of school.

In addition, we also encourage families to apply for SNAP benefits. SNAP provides monthly cash benefits (on an EBT card) to purchase groceries for eligible families. To apply for SNAP, visit DTA Connect at <https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/> or call the Project Bread FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333. Families approved for SNAP are directly eligible to receive free meals at school.

We are finalizing our plans for how, when and where meals for both in-school and remote days for all learners will be provided and we will be sharing those plans with families as soon as possible. Please reach out with any questions you might have. Your children are the reason we do our jobs and we are here to make sure that they are fueled with good food!

Best,

Theresa Vernazzaro, Director of Food Services & Nutrition