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**\*\*IMPORTANT UPDATE\*\***

**Free School Meals Extended Through SY 2021-2022**

Welcome back students and families! The Food and Nutrition Department is excited to see and serve your children this school year. We are thrilled to offer **free breakfast and free lunch to ALL students for the entire school year through June 2022**. However, the purchase of a milk, a second meal and/or a la carte items will be charged to individual student accounts.

**What this means for your family and for Carver Public Schools:**

- Your children will receive a healthy and nutritious breakfast and lunch every school day at no cost to you.
- The Food Service Program in Carver operates independently from the schools operating budget and is dependent on your utilization of these programs. The more meals we serve, the more funding we receive, allowing us to focus on meal quality, innovative practices and fully investing in Farm to School.

Bringing your lunch from home? Students can supplement their lunch with free, healthy options. To qualify, students must select three of the five offered components, and one of those must be a fruit or vegetable. Please note, **milk is not free by itself**.

**Pick 3 Free! Add a fruit, veggie and milk for FREE!**



In addition to taking advantage of free school meals this year, 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 <http://startwithsnap.org/> or call the Project Bread FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333. If you are unsure whether your family is eligible, the FoodSource Hotline can assist you with eligibility questions.

It is our privilege to provide breakfast and lunch to your children, supporting them with nourishing and healthy meals to power through the school day!

Please reach out with any questions you may have.

Regards,

*Theresa Vernazzaro*

District Director of Food & Nutrition Services