



## FOOD SERVICE - FAMILY INFORMATION

August 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the St. Mary's Springs Academy Food Service Department, I would like to welcome our students back to school! We are committed to providing healthy meals for our students and staff that are nutritious and appealing. SMSA is participating in the USDA Seamless Summer Option (SSO) for the entirety of the 2021-22 school year. This means that our school is providing *free* lunches to all students! This program provides additional support and flexibility for our system to continue serving meals to children while maintaining safety measures and managing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though receipt of free meals does not depend on an approved free and reduced-price meal application, we are still distributing and processing them so St. Mary's Springs Academy families may qualify for P-EBT benefits as well as other school funding. Please take a moment to look over the income guidelines to see if you might qualify for this program. Participation is completely confidential. If you believe you qualify, fill out the application and return it to the school secretary, the business office or food service. We encourage you to apply online, or submit a paper application. Online instructions can be found at [www.smsacademy.org](http://www.smsacademy.org) under family resources.

When your child participates in our healthy and delicious school lunch program it will save your family time and money. For your child's lunch to be free, they must take at least three different food components, one of which is ½ cup fruit or vegetable. Second entrées, a la carte items, milk only or meals that do not meet the requirements will be charged to the student.

Included in this packet is the meal payment policy and current pricing for milk and a la carte purchases. Please take the time to discuss with your child(ren) appropriate spending limits for the middle school and high school student a la carte purchases. Skyward does allow parents to set daily limits on a la carte purchases. **Limits that were in place last year are carried over.** Please go into skyward family access to review and change limits as needed to adjust for current prices. Payment options and instructions are in the meal payment policy in this packet. Instructions to navigate skyward family access can be found at [www.smsacademy.org](http://www.smsacademy.org) at the bottom of each page in the Follow us section. You can review student lunch purchases, make online payments, set purchase limits and apply for free/reduced lunches through skyward family access.

Sincerely,

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