Warren Consolidated Schools

Creating Dynamic Futures through Student Achievement, High Expectations, and Strong Relationships

NUTRITION SERVICES
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Welcome Back! We are excited to welcome our students back for another great school year! At Warren Consolidated Schools, we understand the important connection between proper nutrition and academic success.

In addition to providing nutritious lunches each day, the Nutrition Services Department offers a variety of convenient, student-friendly breakfast options served in each school cafeteria at least 15 minutes before the start of the school day. **Our breakfast program** is designed to give busy families a helping hand by ensuring students begin their day with a healthy meal—without disrupting morning routines or valuable classroom learning time. Starting the day with a nutritious breakfast helps students stay focused, energized, and ready to learn. We look forward to serving your family throughout the school year!

ALL schools will participate in a National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program called Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for school year 2026-2027. Currently with, this federal program all **students will be eligible for a FREE complete breakfast and complete lunch**. We still need each household to **complete the Education Benefits Form**. This form is ***critical*** in determining the amount of money that our schools receive from a variety of State and Federal supplemental programs. These programs have the potential to offer supports and services to students, including, but not limited to:

- Instructional supports (staff, supplies & materials, etc.)
- Non-instructional services (counseling, social work, health services, etc.)
- Professional Learning for staff
- Parent and Community engagement supplies and activities
- Technology
- Summer Sun Bucks (EBT benefit for families)

This application can be completed online, the convenient and confidential website allows for quicker processing than the paper applications. The link to https://warren.familyportal.cloud/ is available at the WCS Nutrition Services website which can be found within the WCS homepage. Simply select Apply for Benefits. A new benefits form must be completed each school year. A paper version of the form is available at your school office.

What qualifies as a FREE complete breakfast or lunch? In order for your child to receive their free meals, students must take the necessary components to each meal. Breakfast meals include up to 2 grains and/or meat or meat alternative, up to 2 fruits, and milk. Students must take at least ½ cup of fruit with two more items that qualify. Lunch meals include a grain, meat/meat alternative, vegetable, fruit, and milk. Students must take 3 of the 5, with one being ½ cup of fruit or vegetable. There are many times Nutrition Services staff member will ask the students to take something additional on their tray to ensure the students meal qualify for the free program.

Online Payments for Ala carte Purchases at the Secondary Schools: Food items such as baked chips, whole grain cookies, reduced fat ice cream, and alternative beverages will be available to purchase in the secondary buildings and are not part of the free meals. These items can be paid for with cash at the register, however, we encourage online deposits with a credit card to be made to a student's nutrition account. *We will not extend credit of ala carte purchases*. If you haven't already, you will need to create an account with the new Meal Magic Family Portal. This link is available on the district website https://warren.familyportal.cloud/ . Follow the prompts to set up your account. It is an excellent way to track all transactions that take place in the cafeteria.

Menu Access: Menu links are posted on the district and individual school websites. Families can select their student's school and the menu they would like to view. Nutritional information for menu items is available through the online menu system, and families can select their desired language. A mobile-friendly app is also available for cellphones. Instructions for downloading the app can be found on the WCS Nutrition Services website.

Allergies: Students with food allergies can be accommodated by our staff. The Michigan Department of Education's *Special Diet Statement* form needs to be completed with list of substitutions and the appropriate medical signature in order to make menu modifications. This form can be found under the Nutrition Services tab of the district website. Alternative menus may be available, please contact with the district's School Nurse and the Director of Nutrition Services. **A new Special Diet Statement must be completed each school year.**

Latchkey Snacks and Half Day Lunches: After school snacks will be provided by the Nutrition Services staff for elementary students attending latchkey. These snacks meet nutritional guidelines established by the USDA. Students must take the entire snack, which consists of two items from one of these groups: grains, proteins, fruit, vegetable, or fluid milk. Students attending latchkey on a scheduled half day will have the ability to order a cold lunch at no cost. Order forms will be provided by the latchkey staff.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: The Warren Consolidated Schools Nutrition Services Department is looking for enthusiastic, dependable individuals to join our school kitchen team! We currently have a variety of positions available to apply for. Working in Nutrition Services is a rewarding opportunity to earn an income while making a positive difference in the lives of students every day. Even better, you'll enjoy a work schedule that closely aligns with your child's school calendar, making it an ideal position for parents and caregivers. If you're interested in learning more about joining our team, please contact the Nutrition Services Department at **586-698-4157**. Employment applications are available on the Warren Consolidated Schools website. We would love to have **you** join our team!

We can't wait to see your students in the cafeteria! Should you have any questions, please contact the Nutrition Services Office at 586.698.4158.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.