

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin a new school year, we want to warmly welcome you and let you know how grateful we are to have your students as part of our SAA family.

I want to provide you with some helpful information about Student Nutrition Services for this school year. We understand the impact any increase can have on families, but due to rising food and labor costs, we must adjust our school meal prices for the upcoming school year to continue providing quality meals for our students. In the last 11 years, we have managed to only increase prices by 10¢. Our hearts are in this work, and our focus remains steadfast on providing nutritious, high-quality meals for our students. To continue doing so responsibly, a modest price increase is now necessary.

Updated Meal Prices for 2025–2026:

- **Breakfast (All Grades):** \$1.50
- **Lunch (K–6th Grade):** \$2.20
- **Lunch (7th–9th Grade):** \$2.60
- **Second Entrée (including pizza):** \$1.50
- **Milk:** 50¢
- **Smart Snack options (6th-9th grade only):** \$1.00

Lunches can be paid by cash or check in the school office or by credit card through our online payment system. Attached is a monthly cost breakdown to help families plan lunch account payments.

School Nutrition Program Updates for 2025–26

To help keep costs low while continuing to provide variety and value, we're implementing a few program updates as well:

- **Salad Bar Update:** We are combining the Dragon Salad Bar and side salad bar into a single hybrid version that offers the best of both.
- **Beverage Update:** We will continue to offer milk at both breakfast and lunch. **Juice** will be available for **breakfast only**.
- **New 6-Week Cycle Menu:** We've revamped our menus based on student feedback and popular school trends to create a delicious, well-rounded 6-week cycle menu.

Free & Reduced Meal Information:

Thanks to the support from the state of Utah:

- Students who qualify for **reduced-price meals** will receive **lunch at no cost**.
- Breakfast for reduced-price students **remains at 30¢**.

If you think your family may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals, we encourage you to complete an application. You can apply through the Parent Portal in Aspire, pick up a paper form from the school office, or fill out the attached PDF and email it to aempey@saacharter.org

Food Allergy Accommodations

If your student requires an alternative meal due to allergies, please send the appropriate medical documentation to **April Empey at aempey@saacharter.org**.

We will **ONLY** be able to accommodate students who have the **required medical documentation on file**.

An allergy information packet is attached to this email for your convenience.

We are committed to keeping Aspire updated with accurate account information and will continue to send **weekly notifications for any negative food service balances** to help families stay informed and budget accordingly.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding and for sharing your wonderful children with us. We look forward to another great year and are proud to serve your children with care and dedication!

Sincerely,
April Empey
Child Nutrition Director
Syracuse Arts Academy