



TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Director of Food Services

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August 6, 2018

Welcome Letter from the Food Service Director

Greetings from the Trinity Area School District Food Service Department!

I would like to personally extend a warm welcome to the Trinity community from the Food Services Department. The district operates 6 full service cafeterias, one in each of our school buildings. Services provided by the district include a fresh breakfast and lunch prepared onsite each day. Each school kitchen is staffed with a kitchen manager and a team of dedicated staff who receive, prepare, cashier, and sanitize their kitchen.

All of our staff receives annual training in compliance with Professional Standards set forth by the Healthy Hunger Kid Free Act of 2010. We focus on food safety and quality to ensure that fresh and safe foods are always available. Our department believes in buying fresh and locally procured foods to help ensure that your student receives the most beneficial and nutritionally balanced meals. We take pride in our healthy offerings and hope that you encourage students try new recipes to support a healthy and active lifestyle.

The programs offered in the district are federally funded and therefore we must follow all federal guidelines set forth by Congress. Students can qualify for free or reduced status by either completing an application which is based on household size and income or through other benefit programs run by the state and federal government. Applications can be submitted at any time during the school year by applying online at <https://www.schoolcafe.com/> or submit an application to the school building cafeteria. The online site has changed from last year so please take note. We have updated the site on our website and Facebook page. Applying online is fast, easy, and completely confidential. If you have questions or need help applying, please contact the food service office at 724-223-2000 ext. 6504.

All of our schools follow a food-based menu planning program set forth by the federal program. This plan requires specific food components be offered at meals to provide daily nutritional requirements set forth by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Guidelines for portion sizes, calories, sodium, and 9 other nutritional targets are set forth by grade level. Any student who receives a free or reduced meal is required to take a fruit or vegetable serving. We offer many options in these two categories to help ensure complete meals are taken. If a student does not take a fruit or vegetable serving, the benefits cannot be used per the regulations and students will have to pay the full meal price. There are no exceptions granted by the federal program. Our cashiers will prompt students to take the fruit or vegetable but we cannot make them do that. Parents need to reinforce with their students who receive benefits to take the fruit or vegetable in order to avoid being charged.

The Trinity Area School District uses a finger scanning method to identify each student at the cash register. This form of identification uses the finger and its image to uniquely identify each student. It simply measures many aspects of the finger to do this. **The system does not store the fingerprint image.** This form of identification is called Biometrics, which translated means measurements of human characteristics. **This is not fingerprinting.** This puts your son or daughter in complete control of their own identity. They only can be identified by placing their finger on the reader. This dramatically protects them from losing an id number or sharing that number with other students. Incorrect identification can cause parents to be charged full price for lunches or snack items that they may or may not have taken. New students to our district will be scanned by a cafeteria worker into the system.

Online cafeteria payments to your student account is now faster and easier than ever before. Simply create an account at <https://eps.mvpbanking.com/cgi-bin/efs/login.pl?access=55277>. All you need is a student name and ID number to create an account. This system can save you time from writing checks and sending them to

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school. Please check your student's account balance on eFunds or on Skyward in the Food Service tab. For assistance please call Nicolle at 724-223-2000 ext. 6504. Please allow 24 hours of lag time for the most current updated balance as the system updates each night.

We strive to be a cashless system for a variety of safety reasons. With that said, we cannot give students change back from a deposit to their account. All monies collected from students will be deposited to their accounts for security reasons. Our healthy breakfast price is \$1.35 each day. Reduced price is \$.30 and free to students who qualify. Milk by itself is \$.60. Elementary and middle school lunch is \$2.45 and high school lunch is \$2.70. Reduced lunch is \$.40 and free for those who qualify. Ala carte prices will be posted to our website soon so please check back later.

For students that have forgotten their lunch money we offer IOU's up to \$5.00. Please refer to the IOU policy on our website at <https://www.trinitypride.org/about/departments/food-services/item/1918-policies>

Students who have a disabling food allergy can be accommodated by a parent and physician completing the form online at https://www.trinitypride.org/about/departments/food-services/item/download/393_5ac9300a0c56f9187ddd8be506991785

Our breakfast and lunch menus feature healthy and locally procured foods when possible. In order to be fiscally responsible and ensure that funds are available for healthy meals we are no longer printing paper menus at school. Please refer to our website, Facebook page, or use one of our QR reader refrigerator magnets to see what's on our menus. If you would like a QR refrigerator magnet and own a smart phone, please call the food service office at 724-223-2000 ext.6504.

We have lots of fun and exciting things happening in the food service department. We truly love our students and enjoy seeing them each day. Please follow us on Facebook to find out what's going on and see pictures, get healthy recipes, and stay connected with us! <https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-Area-School-District-Food-Service-Department-1280443198678336/>

If I can personally assist you or your student, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you,

Nicolle Bazant Pleil

Nicolle Bazant Pleil, CDM, MS