



August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year!

I don't think any of us could have ever imagined that this is how the year would begin, but that hasn't stopped our team from working hard to keep mealtime a bright spot in your student's day. Even though we understand plans may continue to evolve, we want you to know that the one thing that won't change is our commitment to continue creating the best dining experience for our students and keeping mealtime a safe, happy and healthy experience for all.

The USDA has extended the feeding waiver until June 2022. This means **ALL MEALS** are **FREE** for all students! **However**, Parents/Guardians should **Still Complete the Free/Reduced Lunch** forms for additional benefits.

In addition to serving foods kids love to eat and offering great-tasting menus developed by our chefs and dietitians, health and safety remains our top priority. Our team has been working collaboratively with the district to determine what plans will fit best for each school. For **Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District** this means students will be eating in the cafeteria or classroom with a bigger variety of meal options. Most meals will be served "Grab&Go" Style so kids have more time to relax and eat!

Health and Safety Remains a Priority

While the logistics and location for how meals will be served is different, students, staff and parents can have peace of mind knowing that Chartwells K12's plans are rooted in the most stringent health and safety practices aligned with federal and state regulations, along with local health department recommendations.

All Chartwells K12 associates will participate in COVID-19 specific training developed in consultation with the Cleveland Clinic, undergo health screenings before each workday and follow strict guidelines for glove, mask and physical distancing protocols. Enhanced cleaning and sanitation measures help assure the safest environments possible.

Menus and Nutrition Facts at Your Fingertips with the Nutrislice App

- Chartwells K12 continues to bring technology to the forefront of the dining experience to help students and their parents prioritize healthy food choices and understand ingredients to help protect their children from allergic reactions. Through Nutrislice, an innovative app, students, parents and faculty have access to school menus, including nutrition information, allergens and photos, available on desktop and mobile devices. Everyone is encouraged to download the free Nutrislice App from the App store (iOS) or Google Play (Android) and search for your menus or find them on the web at <http://marsd.nutrislice.com/>

Innovative Food and Nutrition Education Programs Will Continue

Keeping school meals fun and engaging and as a time for students to connect with others, recharge, and enjoy a sense of happiness is part of who we are. Our goal is to continue to inspire healthy eating habits and spark a culinary curiosity to last a lifetime through these core programs, which we will continue to adapt to the current environment:

- **Student Choice:** brings the latest food trends to school menus and gives middle and high school students a voice in deciding what food concepts are featured and new menu items that will be available.
- **Mood Boost:** this innovative program helps elementary and middle school students connect what they eat with how they feel. It features recipes and characters that focus on six moods: Smart, Happy, Confident, Alert, Strong and Calm.
- **Discovery Kitchen:** Designed to make nutrition education fun and entertaining, Chartwells chefs and dietitians have worked together to create curriculums that get kids cooking, trying new foods, and learning about what they're eating. Each month has a different theme and activities will be adapted for the current meal programs.

Through sharing our passion for great tasting food, instilling a desire for food discovery, and most importantly, providing nourishing meals, we're excited to continue serving up happy and healthy to your children in the year ahead.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out😊😊.

Thank you!!!



Caroline Grant | Director of Dining Services | Matawan Aberdeen
Regional School District | W 732-705-5320 Caroline.Grant@compass-usa.com