



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school provides healthy meals each day. Lunch costs for the 2017-18 school year are:

*K-5 = \$3.70 (includes milk), 6-8 = \$3.85 (includes milk), Cold lunch milk and extra milk = \$.60,
Extra entree = \$2.50, Guest/Adult lunches = \$4.25*

Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. To apply, complete the enclosed Application for Educational Benefits following the instructions. **A new application must be submitted each year.** At public schools, your application also helps the school qualify for education funds and discounts.

State funds help to pay for reduced-price school meals, so all students who are approved for either free or reduced-price school meals will receive school meals at no charge.

Return your completed Application for Educational Benefits to:

Notre Dame Academy - ATTN: Food Services Dept.

13505 Excelsior Blvd.

Minnetonka, MN 55345

Who can get free school meals? Children in households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), and foster, homeless, migrant and runaway children can get free school meals without reporting household income. Or children can get free school meals if their household income is within the maximum income shown for their household size on the instructions.

I get WIC or Medical Assistance. Can my children get free school meals? Children in households participating in WIC or Medical Assistance may be eligible for free school meals. Please fill out an application.

Who should I include as household members? Include yourself and all other people living in the household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends).

May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for your children to qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get overtime only sometimes. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.

Will the information I give be checked? Yes, and we may also ask you to send written proof.

How will the information be kept? Information you provide on the form, and your child's approval for school meal benefits, will be protected as private data. For more information see the back page of the Application for Educational Benefits.

If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. Please complete an application at any time if your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start getting SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR benefits.

Please provide the information requested about children's racial identity and ethnicity, which helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. This information is not required for approval of school meal benefits.

If you have other questions or need help, call Notre Dame Academy #952-358-3500.

Sincerely,

Ginger Vance, Principal

Notre Dame Academy's Unpaid Meal Charge and Debt Collection Policy

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent practices for the provision of meals to students who have insufficient funds in their school lunch accounts and the collection of unpaid meal debt.

II. General Statement of Policy

- A. Notre Dame Academy's goal is to provide nutritious meals to students to promote healthy eating habits and enhance learning as well as maintain the financial integrity of the National School Lunch program and eliminate stigmatization of children who are unable to pay meal charges.
- B. It is the policy of Notre Dame Academy to offer lunch meals that meet state and federal guidelines through the school's Lions' Den Café. These lunches are optional, but available for purchase on the days school is in session. Lunch, milk, extra entree and guest lunch prices are subject to change. Prices may change during the school year if costs to provide the meals increase or milk prices rise. Meal prices can be found on the monthly lunch menus through the school website: <http://www.nda-mn.org>.
- C. The cost of lunch is not included in tuition, therefore funds must be deposited into the students lunch account. Checks or cash should be sent to school in a labeled "lunch money" envelope noting child's name. It is suggested that monthly deposits be made into students lunch accounts to avoid an insufficient fund situation. As lunch funds get low, "Low Lunch Account Balance" letters will be sent home in the NDA folders and/or families will receive an email or phone call.
- D. Families may apply for free/reduced-price meal benefits anytime during the school year. Meal applications are distributed to all families prior to the student's first day of classes. In addition, applications are available in the school office and sent in the summer mailing. If household income or size change, families can apply for meal benefits anytime during the school year.

III. Charge Policy

- A. If the student or family account has insufficient funds to pay for lunch meals, lunch will be offered until a negative ten dollars is reached. Should a lunch account balance go below a negative ten dollars, then a buttered sandwich and milk will be offered at the cost of milk until the lunch balance is brought current and funds are available for future purchases. A student with an overdrawn lunch account will not be allowed to take extra entree or extra milk.
- B. Students eligible for free or reduced-price meals will always be served a meal regardless of unpaid food service accounts, however extra entree nor extra milk will be allowed for purchase when an account is below zero dollars.

IV. Notification of Account Status

A. Households will be made aware of lunch account balances by the following:

- *Families can check their student's meal account balance by emailing the Assistant Food Services Manager at cafeteria@nda-mn.org or call the school office.*
- *The Lions' Den Cafe will send weekly Lunch Account Balance letters in the NDA folder to all parents advising them of student meal account balances under \$15.00.*
- *Students will be given a verbal reminder in the meal service line when lunch account balances are under \$5.00. If student requests a written reminder, a hand stamp will be used.*

B. Households will be notified when lunch account balances are below \$5.00 by the following:

- *The Principal or Assistant Food Services Manager will email households daily until lunch accounts are brought current.*
- *Households will be notified via phone call and/or email when the household account is negative.*
- *Notices will be sent home weekly in NDA Thursday folders.*
- *Food Service Department will encourage parents to complete the free/reduced-price meal application.*
- *NSF checks will follow the school "bad check" policy, as listed in the school handbook.*

If payment is not received after multiple attempts -

- *The Food and Nutrition staff will contact the building principal if no payment is received. The principal will contact the parent/guardian to determine an appropriate solution.*
- *A formal letter will be sent to the household notifying that the debt will be turned over to the collection agency and the student meal account will be closed.*
- *The expectation is all fees owed to the district will be paid in full before the last day the student will be attending classes.*

How to Complete the Application for Educational Benefits

Complete the *Application for Educational Benefits* form for school year 2017-18 if any of the following applies to your household:

- Any household member currently participates in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP), or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR). *or*
- The household includes one or more foster children (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child). *or*
- The total income of household members is within the guidelines shown below (gross earnings before deductions, not take-home pay). Do not include as income: foster care payments, federal education benefits, MFIP payments, or value of assistance received from SNAP, WIC, or FDPIR. Military: Do not include combat pay or assistance from the Military Privatized Housing Initiative. The income guidelines are effective from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Maximum Total Income

Household Size	\$ Per Year	\$ Per Month	\$ Twice Per Month	\$ Per 2 Weeks	\$ Per Week
1	22,311	1860	930	859	430
2	30,044	2,504	1,252	1,156	578
3	37,777	3,149	1,575	1,453	727
4	45,510	3,793	1,897	1,751	876
5	53,243	4,437	2,219	2,048	1,024
6	60,976	5,082	2,541	2,346	1,173
7	68,709	5,726	2,863	2,643	1,322
8	76,442	6,371	3,186	2,941	1,471
Add for each additional person	7,733	645	323	298	149

Step 1: Children

List all infants and children in the household, their birthdate and, if applicable, their grade and school. Attach an additional page if needed to list all children. Fill in the circle if a child is in foster care (a welfare agency or court has legal responsibility for the child). Please provide the requested information on ethnicity and race for each child. This information is not required and does not affect approval for school meal benefits. The information helps to make sure we are meeting civil rights requirements and fully serving our community.

Step 2: Case Number If any household member currently participates in the Special Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), write in your case number, check which program you participate in, and then go to Step 4. If you do not participate in any of these programs, leave Step 2 blank and continue on to Step 3. WIC and Medical Assistance (M.A.) programs do not qualify for this purpose.

Step 3: Adults / Incomes / Last 4 Digits of Social Security Number

- List all adults living in the household (everyone not listed in Step 1) whether related or not, such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends. Include any adult who is temporarily away from home, like a student away at college. Attach another page if necessary.
- List gross incomes before deductions, not take-home pay. **Do not list an hourly wage rate.** For adults with no income to report, enter a '0' or leave the section blank. This is your certification (promise) that there is no income to report for these adults. For seasonal work, write in the total annual income.
- For each income, fill in a circle to show how often the income is received: each week, every other week, twice per month, or monthly.
- For farm or self-employment income only, list the net income per year or month after business expenses. A loss from farm or self-employment must be listed as 0 income and does not reduce other income.
- Last four digits of Social Security number – The adult household member signing the application must provide the last four digits of their Social Security number or check the box if they do not have a Social Security number.
- Regular incomes to children – If any children in the household have regular income, such as SSI or part-time jobs, list the total amount of regular incomes received by all children. Do not include occasional earnings like babysitting or lawn mowing.

Step 4: Signature and Contact Information An adult household member must sign the form. If you do not want your information to be shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs, check the "Don't share" box in Step 4.

Application for Educational Benefits – School Year 2017-18
 School Meals • State and Federally Funded Programs

Step 1 List all infants, children and students through grade 12 in the household, even if they are not related. If more space is needed, attach another sheet.

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Birthdate	School	Grade	Foster Child? (An agency or court has legal responsibility for the child.) If yes, fill in the circle.	Optional - Is the child Hispanic / Latino? If yes, fill in the circle.	Optional - Racial Identity * Fill in one or more circles for each child.						
								American Indian	Asian	African American	Pacific Islander	White		
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* The full names of the racial categories are: American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and White.

Step 2 Do any Household Members currently participate in any of these programs – SNAP, MFIP or FDIPIR? (Medical Assistance and WIC do not qualify.) If No > Go to STEP 3.

If Yes > Write in the CASE NUMBER here and check the program SNAP MFIP FDIPIR. Then go to STEP 4.

Step 3 A. List ALL Adult Household Members including yourself and report all incomes. (Skip STEP 3 if you answered "yes" to STEP 2 or if all participants are foster children.)

Adults - Full Name <small>For the purpose of school meal benefits, the members of your household are "Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related." List the full name of each household member not listed in Step 1 and their income(s) in whole dollars. If a person has no income, write in 0 or leave the section blank. This is your certification (promise) of no income to report. Include any college students temporarily away from home.</small>	Gross Pay from Work <small>Do not write in an hourly wage.</small>				Net Income from Farm or Self-Employment <small>after business expenses. State if annual or monthly.</small>	Public Assistance, Alimony				All Other Incomes				
	Gross pay before deductions (not take-home pay)	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month		Payments received.	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Pension, retirement, disability, unemployment, Veterans benefits, etc.	Weekly	Bi-Weekly	2x Month	Monthly
	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Do any of the children listed in Step 1 receive regular incomes such as SSI or wages? C. Last four digits of signer's Social Security Number (SSN) or no SSN (required):

TOTAL incomes to children, if any: Weekly Bi-Weekly 2x Month Monthly

- Or I don't have a Social Security Number

Step 4 I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and correct and all household members and incomes are reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with receipt of federal and state funds and that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose benefits and I may be prosecuted under applicable federal and state laws. The information I provide may be shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs as allowed by state law, unless I have checked this box: Do not share my information with Minnesota Health Care Programs.

Signature of Adult Household Member (required) _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City _____ Zip _____ Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Office Use Only Total Household Size: _____ Total Income: \$ _____ per _____ Approved: Case Number – Free Foster – Free Income – Free

Income – Reduced-Price Denied: Incomplete Income Too High Signature of Determining Official: _____ Date: _____

Is this form required?

This form must be completed to apply for free or reduced-price school meals, unless:

- (1) Your school provides free school meals to all students without applications from households (*Community Eligibility Provision, Provision 2 or Provision 3*) or
- (2) You were notified that your children have been directly certified for school meal benefits based on foster care status or participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIIP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

Privacy Act Statement / How Information Is Used

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give this information, but if you do not we cannot approve your child for free or reduced-price school meals. You must include the last four digits of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. The last four digits of the Social Security number are not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child, or you provide an MFIIP, SNAP or FDPIR assistance number, or you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a Social Security number.

Only authorized officials will have access to the information that you provide on this form. We will use your information to determine if your child qualifies for free school meals, and for administration and enforcement of the school meal programs. We may share your information with other education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund or determine benefits for their programs, with auditors for program reviews, and with law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules. We require written consent from you before sharing information for other purposes.

Please provide the requested information about children's race and ethnic identity. This information is not required and does not affect approval for program benefits. We use the percentages of participants in each racial/ethnic category to check that our program is operated in a nondiscriminatory manner in compliance with federal civil rights laws

At public school districts, each student's school meal status also is recorded on a statewide computer system used to report student data to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) as required by state law. MDE uses this information to: (1) Administer state and federal programs. (2) Calculate compensatory revenue for public schools, and (3) Judge the quality of the state's educational program.

Information provided on this form may be shared with Minnesota Health Care Programs, unless the person completing this form has checked the box in Step 4 to not share information for that purpose.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (state or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the *USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027)* found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed discrimination complaint form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or (2) Fax to (202) 690-7442 or (3) Email to program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Office Use Only: Verification

Date Verification Sent: _____ Response Due: _____ 2nd Notice: _____

Result: No Change Free to Reduced-Price Free to Paid Reduced-Price to Free Reduced-Price to Paid

Reason for Change: Income Case number not verified Foster not verified Refused Cooperation Other: _____

Signature of Confirming Official: _____ Date: _____ Signature of Verifying Official: _____ Date: _____