

# Food Service FAQ's!

## **Can I pre-pay for my students meals?**

**Yes!** We encourage you to pre-pay on your student's account. We accept any amount. If you pre-pay for 10 or more meals you can get one free meal.

## **Can I pay on-line for my student's meals?**

**YES!** B-G has an on-line system where you can pre-pay for school meals. See the enclosed information sheet for details.

## **Can I find out what my student has been purchasing in the cafeteria?**

**Yes!** The register system has the capability of printing a history of your child's account. We will be able to show you exactly what they have purchased.

## **How does the register system identify what has been purchased?**

Using a touch pad, all students have a unique and confidential ID number to enter into the system. The number that they are assigned will remain the same as long as your student attends school at B-G.

## **If my student qualified for free or reduced meals last year, do I need to fill out another form this year?**

**YES! This is very important!** Send in your applications for free or reduced meals right away. You must re-apply each year for free or reduced price meals. We must have a new application on file by September 30<sup>th</sup>, or your child will have to pay full price for meals.

## **If my family receives free or reduced meals, does that make it more expensive for the students who don't qualify?**

**NO!** The number of free and reduced students participating in the program does not affect the price of meals. It does, though, have a positive impact on the school district. The number of free or reduced applications that we receive has a direct effect on the amount of monetary aid for educational programs that the school can receive. The more students receiving free or reduced meals, the more money the District will receive in State Aid and consequently, less tax burden in the community! **Don't be Shy – APPLY!**

## **When can I apply for Free or Reduced Meals?**

You may apply for free or reduced meals anytime during the school year.

## **If I received a Direct Certification letter from Social Services, do I need to contact the Food Service Manager?**

**Yes!** If you received a Direct Certification letter from the NY State Social Services department this summer please send a copy to the Food Service Manager. We do not receive these letters here at the school. This letter is all that you need to become eligible for free meals for your children this year.

## **What happens if I do not receive a letter from Social Services this year?**

Please do not worry. Social Services is trying to do away with sending letters to each and every family. They are working in conjunction with school districts to get each and every child eligible for free or reduced meals. Each school district does a Direct Certification drop which matches students in the district to children that are eligible for benefits. You will receive a letter from the school when your child is approved by this method.

**Can my student charge meals if they do not have funds in their account?** We have a meal charging policy in all schools. For more information, see the **Meal Charging Policy**.

## **Who can I contact if I have other questions or need more explanation about Food Service at B-G?**

Please call **Billie Reigles, Food Service Manager** at 967-6331 if you have any questions or need help filling out applications.