



Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Dear Families of Oak Ridge Schools

Free Meals for All Students

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has extended the summer free meals for kids program through December 31, 2020. This unprecedented move by the USDA will help ensure that all children have access to nutritious food as the country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to this commitment, beginning September 2, 2020, all students in Oak Ridge Schools are eligible to receive a free breakfast and lunch. This program will stay in effect for as long as funds remain, up until December 31st. The free meals are available to our students whether they are learning in the classroom or virtually, so that they are fed and ready to learn, even in their ever-changing learning environments.

Because this is a temporary program, it is essential that families continue to turn in free and reduced lunch applications if they wish to have meal assistance when the COVID-19 relief funds have been depleted (anticipated to be January 1st). Students at Oak Ridge Schools Preschool, Glenwood, Willow Brook, and Robertsville Middle School will continue to have free meals for all students all year long, even when these funds have been depleted.

Provision 2 Status at Robertsville and Glenwood

For the district to maintain its Provision 2 status at Robertsville and Glenwood (by which all students are provided with free meals regardless of COVID-19 funding) every parent or guardian of students in these two schools must submit a free/reduced application, regardless of income, so we can continue this program for the next three (3) years. The number of applications on file directly impacts the district's ability to claim reimbursements from the government that help cover the expense of providing food for our children. If there is a low rate of returned applications at Robertsville or Glenwood, we risk losing these benefits for years to come. If you have not yet completed this form, an application is attached for you to print and return the school.

We appreciate that the USDA has provided these meals for our children in this extraordinary situation. We recognize that it remains critically important for our children to continue to receive healthy and nutritious food during this COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Sincerely,

Bruce T. Borchers, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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