

Dear Parents,

I have created this FAQ sheet based on questions I am most often asked. If you don't find the answer you are looking for please send your questions to mkearney@venturelearning.org.

Q. *What is the cost for meals at Venture Academy?*

According to the USDA National School Lunch Program Paid Lunch Equity Calculator or prices will be as follows:

A. Breakfast:

Full Price Child K-12- \$1.45

Reduced Child-\$0.30 Adult/Visitor - \$2.85 Extra Milk/Juice/Water-\$0.50

Lunch:

Full Price K-5 -\$2.45 Full Price 6-8-\$ 2.55 Full Price 9-12 \$2.60 Extra Milk/Juice/Water-\$0.50

Reduced K-12 - \$0.40 Adult/Visitor -\$ 3.37

The HHFK Act mandates a change in prices over the next few years. We are increasing ours a little at a time. Lunch prices did change this year but breakfast and adult meal prices did not. Breakfast for the all grades will be from 7:40 to 8:10.

Q. Does Venture Academy participate in the *Federal Free and Reduced Lunch/Breakfast Program*?

A. YES!! You can find the application and instructions in an email that was sent to all Venture Families, in our front office or you can check the link on our website under lunch. You can also contact Marcell Kearney, Lunch Program Director, for forms or questions or assistance with the application. Please be assured that any information you provide will be kept private, as will your students' eligibility status. We encourage all families to apply for assistance. A nutritious and balanced meal is an important part of a students' education.

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application may be shared with Venture Academy Administration to determine fee waiver status. However, we must have your permission to share your information, in this way. Note: this form will not change whether your children get free or reduced price meals.

Q. *What if my child has special dietary needs?*

A. Any dietary request that you wish us to consider, including allergies, must be accompanied by a special dietary needs form that is completely filled out and has a physician's signature *when applicable*. We also need an emergency plan when there is a required response to a reaction that a child has to any food.

Q. Are the forms available in other languages?

A. Yes, we can download forms in several different languages. Just submit your request to mkearney@venturelearning.org or speak with Miss Marcell at 801 393 3900 x 226.

Q. Is my child allowed to carry a negative balance on his/her account?

A. The school will still serve your student a meal if the negative balance on their account does not exceed the cost of three meals. At that time the account will need to be brought current or other arrangement will need to be made with the office or Miss Marcell. We want every student to have access to a healthy meal and will work with families to make sure no Venture Academy Student is turned away or goes hungry.

Q. What forms of payment do you accept and how do I pay?

A. You can make cash or check payments in the school office or your students can make them in the lunch line. Please indicate how you would like the funds split, if applicable.

Credit or Debit cards can be applied on the Venture Academy web site, select parents on the home page and then payments and purchases, then lunch program and finally the option that fits your need.

Q. Can my student purchase an extra meal?

A. Only one breakfast and one lunch per day maybe purchased on your student's account at the student rate. The cost of **every** student's first meal is subsidized by the federal government. This government program dictates that only one subsidized, lunch and breakfast per day may be charged to their account. If your student wants to purchase a second meal they may purchase it at the adult /visitor rate. We also request written permission for this to avoid charges that parents are not aware of.

Q. I paid enough money for my student to eat lunch every day and now my child is in the negative, how is that possible?

A. Occasionally a student will come to school a little early and see other students eating breakfast and decide to purchase one. This sometimes happens even when the student has already eaten breakfast. This will quickly result in a negative balance for your student. Children often do not realize that using their number in the line is actually spending money. Please have the conversation with your student as to whether or not they are allowed to purchase a breakfast from the school. This also happens when a student brings a lunch from home and decides that school lunch looks good that day.

Q. I think that another student is using my student's lunch number to purchase meals.

A. Miss Susan and Miss Emily double check each student as they go through the lunch line to make sure it is the right student using the right number. It is possible if your student has allowed another student to use their number. Please, speak with your student about using their number for themselves and not other students. Also, the computer only allows us to charge one reimbursable meal to each account each day. We know most of the students and the new students we learn very quickly so we are very aware and this has not been a problem for us.

Q. I still think that a mistake has been made on my student's account.

A. Mistakes do happen. Please contact us. We are eager to work with your family and correct or avoid any problems that may arise.

Q. If I want to eat with my child, can I use the money in their account to pay for my meal?

A. Sorry, you must pay separately with cash or a check. Regulations of the National School Lunch Program that help facilitate this program prohibit charging your meal to your students account.

Q. Will you send a menu home each month?

A. I have attached a copy of the first month's menu to the email that is sent to all families at the first of the year, after that we will send it by email and posted on our Website and Blog www.ventureskitchen.com . We will always have one posted in the lunch room and the office. We can send a copy home if you request it. Please be aware that some changes may occur.

Q. Can my child purchase a sack lunch for expeditions using their lunch accounts?

A. Yes and if they qualify for free or reduced lunch, this applies to their sack lunches as well. When an expedition is planned, each teacher will have a form for those who want to request a lunch. They need to be ordered at least a week ahead.

Thanks for reading.

Miss Marcell

Lunch Program Director

Venture Academy/Venture High School

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801-393-3900 ext 226

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