

## **Nutrition Services**

By Cindy Hogenson, Nutrition Services Director

## The School Breakfast and Lunch Program

Nutritious and low-cost breakfast and lunch meals are provided in FPS schools through the <u>USDA School Nutrition Program</u>.

Households may qualify for free or reduced cost meals. Children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or the Temporary Assistance Program for Needy Families (TANF) automatically qualify for free meals. Students can also qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on family income. Fargo Public Schools encourages all families to complete the <a href="Student Frees Assistance">Student Frees Assistance and Benefits application</a> available online. Qualifying includes free waivers for some student activities, submitting college applications, and taking national standardized tests in addition to meal payment benefits.

Jefferson Elementary School, Madison Elementary School, and Ed Clapp Elementary School along with the Explorer Academy provide school meals free of charge under the <a href="Community Eligibility">Community Eligibility</a> <a href="Program">Program</a> (CEP).

Students will need funds in their lunch account when choosing to eat a meal at school. Account balances may be reviewed by logging into the PowerSchool parent portal and clicking on SchoolPay. Through SchoolPay, parents may check balances, deposit money into student accounts electronically, and setup low balance notifications. Electronic payments may be made using credit, debit, or bank account. Money can also be added to an account at the school's office or by mail. Parents should discuss any spending expectations with their child or children. Click here for more details.

Breakfast and lunch menus are available through a service called <u>Linq Connect</u> (previously Titan). Menus on Linq Connect include nutrient and allergen information. Monthly versions of the menu are available for printing using the scaling feature. Due to supply chain challenges, menus printed multiple weeks in advance may not be accurate. Menus can be found on each school's website and at <u>lingconnect.com</u>.



## Nutrition Services, cont.

School kitchens need individuals interested in working in our fun kitchen environments helping to ensure students are nourished and ready to learn. Multiple positions are available that vary in hours at several schools across the district. These positions are great for anyone looking for work that aligns with their child's school schedule. Prior foodservice experience is not required as on the job training is provided. <u>Click here</u> to learn more about open positions and apply.

Additional information about the Fargo School Nutrition Program can be found online here.

