

WELCOME BACK!



DEAR PARENTS/GUARDIANS,

The beginning of the school year is approaching and we would like to extend a warm welcome to let you know that Whitsons School Nutrition has exciting plans for the school meal program. Our goal is to serve nutritious, well-balanced meals that appeal to students and the school community. We are pleased to provide a comprehensive school dining program at Middletown Township Public Schools that meets the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program requirements and engages students in developing a positive “Fooditude”.

At Whitsons we are going back to a time when good food was simple. As part of our new Simply Rooted™ Food Philosophy we are focused on using ingredients that are locally sourced, all-natural, organic or non-GMO, and minimally processed, whenever possible. We are going back to our roots and we would like the entire Middletown Township Public Schools community to join us on this journey.

Here is some general information that will be helpful to begin the new school year:

NEW MENU ITEMS:

Boar’s Head brand deli meats for all grade levels, a variety of new “simply boxed” grab ‘n go items, organic yogurt parfaits and overnight oats, organic applesauce cups, Dr. Praeger’s brand organic veggie burgers and a variety of fresh fruit and vegetable side dishes, just to name a few! High School North and High School South will also feature menu items cooked in our rotisserie ovens, including chicken, vegetables and turkey.

MEAL PRICES:

	Breakfast	Lunch
Paid - Elementary	\$1.25	\$3.00
Paid – Middle School	\$1.50	\$3.25
Paid – High School	\$1.50	\$3.50
Reduced	\$0.30	\$0.40
Free	\$0.00	\$0.00

Students must take a fruit and/or vegetable with their meal to meet the USDA requirements. Low-fat and fat-free milk is also available with all meals.

Breakfast is offered at the following schools: Bayview, Leonardo, Ocean Avenue, Port Monmouth, Thorne Middle School, High School North and High School South.



LOCAL:

Whitsons is committed to local partnerships in the Middletown community. We will collaborate with local produce vendors to provide a portion of our fresh fruit and vegetable selection. In addition, Whitsons will team up with local restaurants and chefs to bring some exciting programs and menu items to the schools.

ELEMENTARY LUNCH PROCESS:

In the past we have received questions regarding how the lunch process works in Elementary Schools. Please note that students are allowed to come through the lunch line. The cafeteria staff is unable to know if they also have a lunch from home when they are purchasing a meal. Parents can monitor their child(ren)'s meal accounts to track purchases via the online My School Bucks system (see information below).

APPLICATIONS / ONLINE PAYMENT SYSTEM:

The District offers free and reduced meal prices for those families who qualify, which is determined by completing a free and reduced meal application. The application for the 2019-20 school year is available online at www.middletownk12.org in the "Food Services" section.

My School Bucks is a convenient way for parents to monitor their child(ren)'s accounts while eliminating the need for students to carry cash to purchase school meals and snacks. Balances automatically carry over from year to year. Detailed instructions and information about MySchoolBucks can be found on the district's website.

OTHER INFORMATION:

To learn more about Whitsons, visit our website at <https://schools.whitsons.com/nj/middletown-township> Details of our program, as well as school menus and other important information are available here.

We're excited about our partnership with Middletown Township Schools and hope to provide a great program while becoming part of your community.

Your opinion matters to us. If you have any suggestions for the school nutrition program, please contact your Food Service Director, Jessica Ritz, at ritzj@middletownk12.org. We are here to serve you and your child(ren)'s needs and look forward to being a part of your community for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Jessica Ritz

Jessica Ritz
Food Service Director

