

Gregory-Portland I.S.D Food & Nutrition Services



REIMBURSABLE MEAL PRICES

School	Breakfast	Lunch
Pre-K – 5th	Free	Free
Student	\$3.00	\$4.30
Staff		
Visitor	A-La-Carte	\$4.50
6th – 12th		
Student	Free	Free
Staff	\$3.00	\$4.30
Visitor	A-La-Carte	\$4.50

Meal Pricing for Adults

School meal pricing is determined within the guidelines of a federal reimbursement program to specifically safeguard the health and well-being of the nation's students (under the age of 18). Therefore, meals served to adults are not eligible for federal cash reimbursement. When adult meals are offered, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) determines what the minimum adult price must be based on the adult meal price calculator which can be found on www.squaremeals.org.

SCHOOL MEAL PRICING for 2022-23

In January 2022, a presentation was made to the Gregory-Portland ISD School Board revealing that, due to inflation since the last time parents and families had to pay for school meals (2016-17), the cost for student lunch in the 2022-23 school year would be \$3.00 for Pre-K – 5th grade and \$3.50 for 6th – 12th grade. (In previous years, our district was supported by a federal provision following Hurricane Harvey that covered meal costs for a certain amount of time. That provision is no longer in place for G-PISD.)

In support of the district's Balanced Scorecard Priority 1 – Exceptional Student Performance, the G PISD School Board made the decision to approve a recommendation to provide one (1) FREE BREAKFAST and one (1) FREE LUNCH per day to each student during the 2022-23 school year. This \$1.2 Million investment was made because our Board understands that when children are fed, they are best prepared for academic success in the classroom. Additionally, the decision supports families as we transition away from several years of federally-funded meals. This school year, the Board's decision to pay for student meals will result in an approximate savings of \$1,000 per child for our families.

Please anticipate the return to the standard practice of paying for student meals after this 2022-23 school year. In the meantime, please ensure your child arrives at school early to eat breakfast and also enjoys a nutritious lunch each day this year – courtesy of G-PISD. Thank you!

MEAL PRICING UPDATES

Please scan the QR code below, or visit www.g-pisd.org/mealpricing, to see how inflation has resulted in cost increases since the last time G-PISD families were paying out of pocket for student meals.

If you have questions, please contact the G-P Wildcat Café team at 361-777-1098, ext. 1500.



Menus

Wildcat Café believes good nutrition and learning go hand in hand. We support learning by promoting healthy habits for lifelong nutrition and fitness practices. We provide students with access to a wide variety of appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students. Food and beverages sold or served at school meet the nutrition recommendations of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations; Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010; and Smart Snacks in School established in 2014.

Menu development is established according to the popularity of the food based on student input and participation figures. Each menu item is then nutritionally analyzed to ensure it meets the federal requirements enforced by USDA.

All items offered must meet the following guidelines:

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act Regulations			
	K – 5th Grade	6th – 8th Grade	9th – 12th Grade
Calories (Min-Max)	550-650 for lunch	600-700 for lunch	750-850 for lunch
Saturated Fat (% of total calories)	<10%	<10%	<10%
Sodium (mg)	< 1230 weekly	< 1360 weekly	< 1420 weekly
Fruits	2.5 cups per week	2.5 cups per week	5 cups per week
Vegetables	3.75 cups per week	3.75 cups per week	5 cups per week
Dark Green	½ cup per week	½ cup per week	½ cup per week
Red / Orange	¾ cup per week	¾ cup per week	1 ¼ cup per week
Beans and Peas	½ cup per week	½ cup per week	½ cup per week
Starchy	½ cup per week	½ cup per week	½ cup per week
Other Vegetables	½ cup per week	½ cup per week	¾ cup per week
Additional Veg.	1 cup per week	1 cup per week	1 ½ cup per week

Operational Facts

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Wildcat Café is pleased to provide numerous on-line capabilities you can use 24 hours a day:

- **Nutritional Information / Menus** – Menus are provided at www.wildcatcafe.org. These menus not only provide what is being served, but also provide the nutritional content and allergens of the meal(s) selected. You can download Nutri-Café from either the app store or google play. Nutri-Café allows you to view our menus via mobile device(s). Numerous options are available, and updated frequently for your convenience.
- **Online Payments via "Lunch Money Now" Account(s)** – Wildcat Café offers a safe and secure way to add money to your child/ren account(s) using PayPal, MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover, or your bank card. This process eliminates the potential for lost, stolen, or forgotten check and/or cash payments by sending with children to school. Online deposits are made every 30 minutes Monday – Friday, 6 AM – 2 PM. The convenience fee to pay online can be as low as \$2.50 per family as long as each child is entered prior to the payment screen.
- **Low Balance & Limit Notices** – These helpful options are available via the "Lunch Money Now" account(s). You can set your balance notification limit from \$2.00 to \$20.00 for each student account(s). When your child reaches the set limit you entered, you will receive an automatic email notice reminding you of the exact balance available so that you can add money to the student account(s).
- **Meal Activity Information** – Student meal activity is available in your "Lunch Money Now" account(s), allowing you to view the purchases made (and food options chosen) for your child during the prior 30 days. This site is updated overnight, every day.
- **Computer Access** - If you don't have access to a computer at home, each campus has designated visitor computers in order to utilize this technology. All this information and more can be found at www.wildcatcafe.org. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call 361-777-1098 to reach the Food & Nutrition Services department offices or individual campus cafeterias.

FOOD ALLERGIES

As part of our comprehensive allergy management program, Wildcat Café works in conjunction with our district nurses to ensure the safety of all students. The district nurses notify Wildcat Café when a student has a confirmed allergy issued by a medical authority. Once Wildcat Café is notified, a medical alert is applied to the student's meal account, which notifies employees of Wildcat Café to verify that the student does not receive any meal item(s) that may adversely affect him/her as a result of the confirmed allergy. **It is a priority of the Wildcat Café to keep every student as safe as possible, therefore medical alerts issued by a medical authority can only be removed by a medical authority.** Until such notice is received in writing from the official medical source, the student(s) will continue to be monitored for food allergies when receiving

meals from the Wildcat Café. Menu modifications or menu substitutions will only be made if the allergy is life threatening and the 504 process has been completed through the applicable campus administration/office.

PARENT-INITIATED ALERTS

Wildcat Café supports parents/guardians in providing healthy meal options for students. As an extension of this support, Wildcat Café does respond as able/appropriate to individual parent request(s) to avoid providing certain food options to student(s). When this type of request is made, a parent-initiated alert is entered in the student's meal account and Wildcat Café employee(s) take action, as able, to accommodate these request(s). While these accommodations are offered as a courtesy to parents to the degree that Wildcat Café can facilitate such requests, no accommodations are required by law, nor are these types of requests the result of potentially life-threatening or medically necessary changes (in contrast to food allergies). Additionally, a parent-initiated alert may be present in the student's meal account, however the student must cooperate with such request(s) for substitutions to be made/effective. Parents will continue to be responsible for any cost incurred when the cashier must replace menu items based on a parent request. A-La-Carte pricing will apply to any item(s). All parent-initiated alerts/requests must be submitted in writing to Wildcat Café. Because these are not food allergy alerts (medically necessary), parent-initiated alerts are removed at the end of each school year. Should parents/guardians choose to make a request in the future, they must do so at the beginning of each new school year. Wildcat Café reserves the right to offer, or remove, the ability to provide parent-initiated alert(s) on an annual basis, as reported in the Student Handbook each year.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Operational Facts