



Wheaton Warrenville School District
CUSD 200
1920 Wiesbrook Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

Dear Parents,

Sodexo appreciates being the selected food service provider for the Wheaton Warrenville School district. If we are doing our job, more students will enjoy eating in the cafeteria each day. Our success can be measured by the percentage of students participating in the meal programs offered. Higher participation benefits both the students and the school district. Our participation goal is to have a program that attracts greater than 50% of the student population to eat lunch with us. We know that we cannot meet our goal without great service and great food.

Good communication with you is vital for our success. This packet is intended to communicate the basic information you need regarding the food service program in this school district.

The Food Service Department, and How to Contact Us

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the school lunch program, we can be reached directly at either 630-384-3690 or 630-384-3789. Also, we can be reached by e-mail at sseibert@cusd200.org or mnarkis@cusd200.org.

Our goal is to make the total food service experience pleasurable for the students and **easy** for you. Please feel free to communicate any of your needs with us. It is our goal to exceed your expectations.

Food Service Staffing in Your School

The food service staff in your school is employed by Sodexo School Services. All food service employees receive continuous training on sanitation, safety, customer service, state program regulations, and more prior to the start of employment and throughout the school year. In addition, every employee receives all the health and background screenings that are required by law before beginning work. We encourage food service employees to be a part of each school's team, serving the students' needs in the educational process. We want you to be satisfied with the level of service, appearance, and professionalism provided by each employee.

Menus

The school menus are distributed on a monthly basis and are posted in the school cafeteria. Menus are also available to view on the web at cusd200.org.

Menu choices follow the USDA's *NuMenus* menu planning option for the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. Under *NuMenus* food taken by students must be analyzed to meet or exceed preset nutritional standards for fat, saturated fat, calories, iron, vitamin-C, vitamin-A, protein, and calcium based on a weekly average. *NuMenus* does not mirror the standards on the Food Pyramid.

Menus (continued)

The food choices offered in the cafeteria are based on a combination of:

- 1) *NuMenus* requirements
- 2) student input
- 3) meal popularity from past experience
- 4) facility and equipment limitations
- 5) parent and other adult input
- 6) USDA donated foods

Menus are designed to provide the required nutrition and satisfy the students, parents, and district.

Meal Counting, Meal Tickets, and Pricing

The opportunity for the school district to receive state and USDA reimbursement monies makes it very important to assure that meals are counted properly. The State of Illinois and the USDA mandate program rules and ultimately control hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of program reimbursements. Sodexo personnel follow the correct procedures for counting meals, meal components, prices, and more.

Offer versus Serve

CUSD 200 elects to use the Offer versus Serve (OVS) option at all schools. OVS is a federal program option allowing students to decline certain food choices. It is intended to encourage choices and reduce food waste. Once selected for the district for the year, OVS is not optional. If students do not make choices properly on OVS, the state can withhold reimbursements. OVS can be challenging for both students and adults to understand. I have enclosed a definition of OVS to help. As required, this definition will also be posted in every cafeteria. In addition, the food service managers will be visiting each school to monitor the serving lines and assist in making OVS successful in each school.

Marketing and Promotions

Throughout the school year the food service department will have various marketing programs and promotions to encourage students to eat in the cafeteria. We strive to make the promotions fun, easy, and meaningful and not disrupt the cafeteria. They involve things like new food items or educational information.

Free and Reduced Meal Household Applications

Every student receiving either free or reduced meals is required to have a completed and approved meal application on file before receiving benefits. A new meal application must be

completed every year. A student's prior meal benefit status is good only for the first 30-days of the school year. If a new application is not received benefits will end.

Application Tips

All children in the household can be on the same application (except foster children must each have a unique application)

- Total household income must be included
- Signatures and Social Security #'s are important (check the box if no soc. sec #)
- A current phone number and address is important for future correspondence
- Please make sure the Food-Stamp number is complete (13-digits)

CUSD 200 personnel will process the free and reduced meal applications. Please forward all applications to the attention of Janine Sillitti, at the School Service Center.

Again, the food service department is happy to provide a good nutritious dining experience for the students of CUSD 200. If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at any time.

Sincerely,

Simon Seibert
General Manager
630-384-3690

Maryann Narkis
Assistant General Manager
630-384-3789