

August 2023

Dear Teachers & Staff of Comstock Public Schools,

We're excited to be back serving up happy and healthy meals to your students and are looking forward to another great new school year! On behalf of the entire Chartwells Food Service team at Comstock, we join you in welcoming students back this fall. As the director of dining services for Comstock, I'm excited to see you in the cafeteria!

To kick off the new year, we wanted to share a few things you and your students can look forward to when it comes to mealtime:

- **What's New on the Menu**

We're thrilled to be introducing new kid-favorite recipes to the menu at Comstock this fall reflecting some of the latest food trends. Here are just a few of the new meals we're excited about heading into this year.

- Fun Lunches as a 3rd entrée choice at the elementary buildings. These will be known as Choice #1 (green), Choice #2 (orange) and #3 (blue)
- Baked Ziti, Teriyaki Dippers with Fried Rice, and a Strawberry Yogurt Parfait for our K-5 learners
- Cantonese Beef Stir Fry, Lemon Pepper Tilapia, and Curry Masala Chicken Wings (a winner from our student Choice tasting event) for our 6-12 grade students

- **Universal Free Meals**

Again for the 2023-24 school year, all Comstock students will have free breakfast and lunch meals while they are at school. This is part of "Community Eligibility Provision", which we have participated in since 2017. It is important to note that families should still complete an Electronic Benefits Form (EBF), which helps ensure ongoing state funding and can qualify our buildings for other special programs like free summer meals. If families have already received an email or letter stating their free educational benefit, they do not need to fill out an EBF. Parents or guardians can complete the form online, through the district website, or in person at any school office.

- **Menus and Nutrition Facts at Your Fingertips [Comstock Nutrislice Menus](#)**

Through Nutrislice, an innovative app, students, parents and faculty have access to school menus, including nutrition information, allergens and photos. Nutrislice can be downloaded for free from the App store (iOS) or Google Play (Android) and is available on desktop and mobile devices. Menus are also available at comstockps.nutrislice.com. All menus will be available by Thursday August 24th.

- **Special Diets/Allergies [MDE Special Diet Statement](#)**

Just because a student has a known allergen listed in the student information system, doesn't mean that the kitchen knows about that allergen and has approval to make a modified meal for the student. Each child must have an approved MDE Special Diet form filled out by a medical professional before we can make menu changes in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program. Each office has a copy of this form and both sides must be filled out and returned back to Holly Wait for approval. The district does not make accommodations for religious or personal dietary preferences. All allergy or special diet questions may go directly to Holly via email or at 269-250-8928.

- **Adult Meals**

The school meals program is a federal grant for students and does not include discounted meals for adults. Adults are welcome to grab a lunch during student meal times for \$5.25, or order from our Adult Lunch Menu. Each kitchen has a copy of our special adult lunch menu and can give you assistance in ordering those meals each day. If you need a school meal account set up to make deposits and track your purchases, please send an email to Holly with your name, building you would be at during lunch, and DOB (mm/dd/yyyy). The website (Meal Magic Family Portal) to set up making online payments after your meal account has been created is here [Meal Magic Family Portal- Comstock](#)

We can't wait to join you in welcoming back our students next week! We have some exciting promotions and events planned again for this school year, and are always looking for more ways to engage students in trying new things and celebrating fun during lunch time and beyond.

We always welcome questions and feedback from teachers, students, and families. Our team is available to help and can be reached at the contact information below. We look forward to welcoming you and your students in the cafeteria. Here's to a happy and healthy school year!

Sincerely,

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