

INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

What are the meal prices?

Clara Bolen Breakfast	Free	Tawas Middle school Breakfast	Free
Clara Bolen Lunch	\$2.00	Tawas Middle school lunch	\$2.00
High School breakfast	Free	High school lunch	\$2.25
Milk Only	.50		

How does my child participate in the meals program?

Your child will have an ID number that is set up when they enroll in school and an ID card is prepared for them. This school ID number is also used to establish their food service account. You will need to deposit money in this account in order for them to purchase school meals. You may put enough money in their account for the week, one month or even a semester. PLEASE MAKE SURE THERE IS MONEY IN YOUR CHILDS ACCOUNT AT ALL TIMES. You can access their account at <http://foodservice.tawas.net/Login.aspx>. You may send in one check for multiple family members, but please specify what child and how much to deposit in each child's account. Deposits may be turned in any day and at any school.

How does my child get a school meal?

Breakfast is free at each building. The serving times are 7:30a.m. To 7:55 a.m. Elementary students wanting to eat breakfast will come to the cafeteria choose their breakfast items and give their ID or number to the cashier at their building. This, if needed, would be a great time to deposit any money on accounts. All building will have a variety of healthy choice meals to pick from. At lunch, elementary, a lunch count is taken in classroom in the morning and given to the kitchen. Students ID cards are hung in lunchroom by classroom, to be given to cashier after going through serving line. Middle school and high school has a variety of choices available. Students must have ID card to purchase a meal. If High school student loses ID card they may go to counseling office for a new ID card. The service area will distribute the main entrees of the day. The student then proceeds to the "Salad Bar" for additional items, such as fruit and fresh vegetables, condiment and salad dressings to complete their lunch. Under USDA guidelines, student must take a serving of fruit or vegetable offered on the menu to make a "qualified" student meal. It must be a complete meal to receive free or reduced meal benefits. If a complete meal is not taken, items are charged as ala Carte. If your child is unsure what qualifies as a meal benefit, kitchen staff can assist them. When your child receives lunch, it is deducted from the account. If your child does not eat or take milk that day, NO money is deducted from their account.

What Qualifies as a School Lunch and Breakfast?

A school lunch requirements are as followed: Entrée, 1 cup of fruit, 1 cup of vegetable and Milk. A student is required to take at least a ½ cup of fruit or vegetable with an entrée'. Breakfast requirements are 1 cup of fruit/juice, 2 Whole grains, or 1 whole grain with protein and a milk. A student is required to take at least a 1/2 cup of fruit/juice, 2 whole grains or 1 whole grain with protein. Under USDA guidelines, student must take a serving of fruit or vegetable offered on the menu to make a "qualified" student meal. *It must be a complete meal to receive free or reduced meal benefits.*

Is breakfast available on the “delayed start?”

No.

What do I do if the balance of my students account differs from what I believe it should be?

There are several reasons that your child’s account may not be what you believe it to be. Our meal accounting system gives greater convenience to parents, but also students. We have a variety of ala Carte items available at the Middle school and high School that may be purchased with money in the student’s account. You may view your child’s account on line, visit the dietary department at your child’s school or call food service office at (989)-984-2114 to receive a print out of your child’s account or access account on line.

What if my child is purchasing meals without my permission?

Meals charged by the student are the parent’s responsibility. We recommend that you talk with your student about how you would like them to use their account. However, if you do not want your child to have certain meals or ala Carte items charged to his/her account, we can help monitor the student’s purchases. The account can mark to alert cashiers of those limitations. Please call the food Service Office to set guidelines on your student’s account

Can my child take money out of his meal account?

Money deposited in your child’s account for school meals is strictly for that purpose. We do not honor requests from the student to take money out for dances, lost IDs, field trips or any other reason. If your child needs money withdrawn from his/her account, a parent must request it. Parents may also request to transfer money from one of their children’s account to another child’s account. This may be done by calling or writing the Food Service Department.

How do I know my child’s lunch account balance and charge policy?

There are several options to check on food service accounts. Parent can check with food service cashier at the school or call the Food Service Office at (989)984-2114 to check balances. Students are also given notes to take home or verbally informed when their account is getting low. Automated School Messenger calls and low balance emails are sent out twice a week if account is in negative. E link is our online account system that allows parents to view student accounts from any computer. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO REGULARY CHECK YOUR CHILDS ACCOUNT BALANCE. Your student account is not a charge account. Negative amounts must be paid in order for your student to continue getting school meals. Clara Bolen Tawas Middle school and High School students will be allowed to charge up to five lunches, and then account must be paid up in full. Student over the charge amount will call home and will receive a substitute lunch will be determined by food service staff . If having difficulty financially, please contact foodservice department to make other arrangements. No ala -carte sale if account has insufficient funds.

If my child received free and reduced benefits last year, do I have them this year?

YOU MUST FILL OUT A NEW APPLICATION FOR FREE AND REDUCED BENEFITS AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR. As a convenience, the USDA grants a continuance of last year’s benefits for 30 days to give parents time to fill out new application and the Food Service administrator time to process them. Applications are available to fill out online. Contact Foodservice Department.

How will I know whether I have been qualified for meal benefits?

When your application has been processed, you will receive a letter stating the benefits for which you have been approved and the cost of the meals that your student will be charged. PLEASE do not call the Food service office to check on your application's status-this only slows the process.

How does my child receive just milk?

Your child should take their ID card put in a bucket by the milk cooler. A .50 charge will be deducted from their account.

Where can I get a menu for my students' school?

Elementary menus are sent home with your student. High school as well as elementary and Middle School menus is posted on the Food service link at the Tawas.net a paper copy can be sent home with your student if requested.