

Washington County Public Schools

812 Thompson Drive, Abingdon, Virginia 24210
Telephone: (276) 739-3000 FAX: (276) 628-1874

BRIAN C. RATLIFF, ED.D.
Superintendent

JEFF NOE, ED.D.
Assistant Superintendent

THE SCHOOL BOARD
Billy W. Brooks, Chair
Tom Musick, Vice Chair
Douglas E. Arnold
Terry D. Fleenor
J. Sanders Henderson, III
Elizabeth P. Lowe
Dayton Owens

July 20, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardian:

The following is provided for your information/action. Should you need additional explanation, please call the school principal.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS:

The prices for breakfast and lunch in 2018-2019 are shown on the charts below. Please note the application information and deadlines for free or reduced price breakfast and lunch approval.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Breakfast

Student	
Full Price	\$1.50
Reduced Price	0.30
Milk	0.50
Staff	2.40
All Visitors	2.75

Lunch

Student	
Full Price	2.35
Reduced Price	0.40
Milk	0.50
Staff	3.65
All Visitors	3.95

MIDDLE SCHOOLS & HIGH SCHOOLS

Breakfast

Student	
Full Price	\$1.50
Reduced Price	0.30
Milk	0.50
Staff	2.40
All Visitors	2.75

Lunch

Student	
Regular Line	2.55
Pizza/Deli Combo	2.75
Reduced Price	0.40
Milk	0.50
Staff	
Regular Line	3.65
Pizza/Deli Combo	3.75
All Visitors	3.95

Students approved for free or reduced price meals may choose either regular line or pizza/deli combo meal without additional cost and **are eligible to eat breakfast as well.**

We strongly encourage you to pay for meals in advance, which helps speed up the serving lines and allows the students more time to eat. To further assist you, the *K12 Payment Center* is available, which for a nominal fee, will allow you to conveniently pay for your child/children's meals online.

For emergency purposes only, a maximum of \$10 may be charged on an elementary or middle school account. Once the \$10 limit has been met, no further charges will be allowed on the account until it has been cleared. As a courtesy, the student will be offered an alternative meal. Failure to either pay or make arrangements for payment of charges immediately will result in the matter being turned over to school administration for collection. **Charges are not allowed in the high schools. PLEASE NOTE, this charge policy is under review and any revisions will be posted on the Child Nutrition web page and a written revision will be provided to all households.**

Applications for free and reduced price breakfast and lunch will be available at all schools during registration and online at www.wcs.k12.va.us/schoolnutrition/application-free-and-reduced-meals. If you have not received notification of approved benefits by **August 8**, please contact your child's school or the Child Nutrition Program Office at (276) 739-3031. Only one application per household needs to be submitted with the names of all school-age children listed. Students who received free or reduced price meal benefits at the end of the 2018-2019 School Year will receive the same benefits for the first thirty (30) days of school. If a 2018-2019 application has not been approved by that time, your child/children will need to pay full price for meals, and you will be responsible for any charges incurred on your child/children's account prior to the date your new application is processed. All meals served must meet standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If a medical doctor has determined your child cannot eat regular school meals and needs a special diet he must complete and submit a Physicians Statement noting the prescribed diet. Substitutions prescribed by the doctor will be made at no charge. Presently there is no substitution for milk, but because our meals are "offer versus serve", your child does not have to take milk as a choice, but must take at least three of the five meal components offered for lunch and three of the four meal items offered for Breakfast to make a complete meal. Water fountains and water coolers with cups are available in all cafeterias however, bottled water is sold as an a la carte item.

IMMUNIZATIONS:

All students must meet state immunization requirements and provide documentation of same before being allowed to attend school. For elementary students, a physical examination conducted within twelve months prior to the first day of school attendance is also a requirement.

BUS ROUTES:

There may be some minor route changes in your attendance area and additional adjustments may be necessary during the school year to assure efficiency and quality of service. If route changes are scheduled for an individual school, information about the changes will be mailed to parents/guardians. These changes will also be posted on our website at www.wcs.k12.va.us. Please contact your school principal or the Transportation Office if you have questions regarding routes.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING – ALTERED SCHEDULE:

The school system may delay the opening of school, close school for the day, or send students home early if weather related/road conditions or an emergency makes it unsafe for buses to travel, and/or for students and staff to remain at school. Regional television and radio stations are advised as soon as a decision is made. Parents need to make prior arrangements for adequate supervision of small children in case a "delayed" opening is changed to "school closed" or it is necessary for students to be sent home early. Please do not call radio and television stations, as those calls impede prompt communications between the School Board Office and the stations. In addition, school closings and/or altered schedules will be posted on our website at www.wcs.k12.va.us, and the snow line/information telephone numbers are (276) 676-9669 or (276) 466-4110. "You may also register for our PowerSchool Parent Portal which allows you to optionally sign up to receive e-mails, phone calls, and text message alerts to keep you informed of the most up-to-date information on emergency school closings, important events, and necessary mid-year changes."

ATTENDANCE/TARDY ARRIVAL/EARLY DEPARTURE:

The school system places emphasis on excellent attendance by students and staff. Parents are expected to have their child/children attend school every day school is in session unless the child is ill. Appointments should be scheduled for non-school hours if possible. Particular attention will be given to period-by-period attendance and eliminating late student arrival and early student departure. Attendance habits learned by students in school become assets or liabilities for them when they become adults. Many students who miss several days of school each year (without medical justification) have difficulty securing their first full-time job, as employers do check student attendance records.

Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, student attendance will be a portion of individual school accreditation for Virginia's public schools. Students who are defined as 'CHRONICALLY ABSENT' will be included as a portion of a school's accreditation and rating determination. Students who miss more than ten percent of the school year (eighteen (18) days of 180 day school term) for any reason including all excused absences (Medical or Doctor Note as well), will be considered chronically absent by the Virginia Department of Education. All absences are included in the ten percent calculation.

For students not to be considered 'CHRONICALLY ABSENT', they cannot miss 18 or more days the entire school year. Students are expected to be in attendance for all 180 scheduled instructional days, unless they are ill, have a legitimate family emergency, or have an extenuating circumstance which warrants the school principal's approval.

Insurance

Washington County Public Schools now offer student accident insurance to all students for the 2018-2019 School Year at no cost to the parent/guardian. Student Accident Coverage is SECONDARY to any other insurance, including Medicaid, FAMIS, or private health insurance. A Student Accident Claim Form must be filled out by the parent/guardian and submitted to the School within ninety (90) days from the date of the incident. This insurance covers students while they are at school or participating in school-sponsored activities.

Best wishes for an exciting, positive and productive 2018-2019 School Year. We look forward to partnering with parents/guardians to help every student realize their maximum educational success.

Sincerely,



Brian C. Ratliff, Ed.D.
Division Superintendent