

Great news! Starting Monday, January 4, 2021, **ALL BA students will receive HOT LUNCH FOR FREE!**

This is occurring because our lunch staff successfully applied for an additional program through the federal government. Our application was accepted and made possible through additional Minnesota COVID-related educational funding. **That means that every student at Bethlehem Academy is eligible to eat hot lunch FOR FREE now through April 30.** The plan is to reapply for the program to extend this benefit through the month of May. We will let you know if that extension is successful.

Please see below for additional questions regarding the program and what that means for your lunch account.

What is included?

This program includes a hot lunch meal and one milk for free each day, a \$3.65/meal value. **Any a la carte items, including seconds on entrées, milk, cookies, chips or other student-choice purchase will still incur a fee.**

My student usually brings a lunch. What do I need to do to take hot lunch?

All students are eligible for the program, so your student can participate at any time. Teachers take a daily hot lunch count during first period. Your student would simply need to let their teacher know that they are choosing hot lunch to be included in the daily count. This helps our staff plan for the right amount of food to prepare each day.

I have a balance on my lunch account. Can I get a refund?

As a la carte purchases are not included in this program, we are asking families to keep a balance on their account.

A la carte items? What kind of extra items does the hot lunch program provide?

We offer a variety of a la carte items for students to purchase, including seconds on our entrée (\$1.25-\$1.75), milk (\$.50), cookies (\$.50), chips (\$.75), fruit snacks (\$.75), and juice (\$.75). In our experience, a large percentage of our students take advantage of these extras on a regular basis.

My student doesn't get a la carte items. What happens to the money in my account?

Again, we ask that balances remain in your lunch account in case your student chooses one of our extra items. All balances remaining on the account will apply to meals eaten in May or will roll over to next school year. Funds remaining in the account of a graduating senior who do not have younger siblings at BA will be reimbursed at the end of the year.

What about families with negative lunch account balances? Did the BA Christmas Angel Fund help?

The good news is ALL students can now eat hot lunch without having to worry about the expense. If you currently have a negative lunch account balance, we ask that you use this time to make payments on your account. We were fortunate, thanks to the generosity of our BA community, to be able to help several families through the Christmas Angel Fund. The lunch program still has over \$1500 in negative accounts; any donation would help both our families and our hot lunch program cover costs. If you can assist in this, please contact Tracy Meschke at tmeschke@bacards.org or drop a donation in an envelope marked "BA Angel Lunch Account Fund" in the front office. Thank you!