Immanuel Lutheran School – School Lunch Information

2023-2024 School Year

Meal System

Immanuel Lutheran School uses a computer system called MealManage. When a payment is made, the amount is entered into the student's account. After the student has received their lunch, the cost of the meal is deducted from their account. When the student's account is low, an email will be generated from the lunch program alerting the parent who is linked to the student's account. Running a negative balance is discouraged.

Minnesota Free Meals for Kids Program

What is the Minnesota Free School Meals Program?

The Minnesota Free School Meals Program provides state reimbursement to schools that participate in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program so that students can have one breakfast and one lunch at no cost at school.

Do I still need to complete the Application for Educational Benefits?

It is important for families to complete the Application for Educational Benefits. Applications for Educational Benefits determine how much funding your child's school receives for educational programs and supports. Additionally, eligible families can qualify for other benefits, such as:

·WIC Benefits
·Metro Transits' Transit Assistance Program
·FCC Affordable Connectivity Program/Reduced price internet programs
·Some summer camps, athletics programs and/or childcares offer scholarships or discounts.

What is included in the MN Free School Meals Program?

In schools with Offer versus Serve (high schools and many elementary schools):
·At breakfast, the student must choose at least 3 items to be counted as a reimbursable meal. The student must choose a ½ cup serving of fruit or vegetable as part of their breakfast.
·At lunch, the student must choose at least 3 components to be counted as a reimbursable meal. The student must choose a ½ cup serving of fruit or vegetable as part of their lunch.

In schools that choose not to do Offer versus Serve (some elementary schools and many schools that purchase meals from a vendor):
· At breakfast and lunch, the student must take all of the items included in the meal. This includes the entrée, fruits, vegetables, and milk.

What is NOT included in the MN Free School Meals Program?

Single item purchases and non-reimbursable meals are not free. Some examples include:
· carton of milk
· snack items
· second entrée
· A second breakfast or a second lunch
· Meals that do not meet the minimum requirements
· Meals served to teachers, staff, and other adults

Breakfast Costs

	*Paid Meals***	*Reduced Meals**	*Free Meals*	*Extra Milk*
Grades K - 6	*$0.00*	*$0.00*	*$0.00*	*$0.40*
Grades 7-12	*$0.00*	*$0.00*	*$0.00*	*$0.40*
Adult Visitor/Staff or 2nd Breakfast for K-12	*$2.25*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*$0.40*

Lunch Costs

	*Paid Meals***	*Reduced Meals**	*Free Meals*	*Extra Milk*
Grades K - 6	*$0*	*$0.00*	*$0.00*	*$0.40*
Grades 7-12	*$0*	*$0.00*	*$0.00*	*$0.40*
Adult Visitor/Staff or 2nd Breakfast for K-12	*$4.95*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*$0.40*

*Reduced Meals are currently Free in Minnesota as part of a $0.40/meal reimbursement from the state.
**Minnesota offers free meals to all students

Free and Reduce Meals

Meals are provided free or at a reduced cost to students who qualify. Pick up an Application for Educational Benefits at the school office, or fill out the online application through MealManage. The information is strictly confidential. Students who receive meals free or at a reduced rate are not identified to other students, or staff who are not involved with the food service program. All are encouraged to apply as some of our school funding is based on the number of students that qualify for this program. You may apply at any time during the school year. If your household situation changes, an increase in the size of the household or a decrease in income, remember you may apply at that time.

Milk

One milk is included in every meal. Milks can be purchased by students eating cold lunch. Extra milks can be purchased by students eating hot lunch. Free and reduced pricing does not apply to milks for students eating cold lunch or for extra milks for students eating hot lunch.

Payment Methods

You can mail payments to the school office, make payments in person at the school office, send payments with students to the school office, or make payments online. Please make checks payable to Immanuel Lutheran School. Do not combine your school lunch payments with any other payments made to the school. Online access and payments will be made available through a link sent to your email address from MealManage.

Meals and Menus

Breakfast and Lunch are served every day the students are in school. The meals follow regulations set by the U.S. Government to provide balanced, healthful meals. Menus are posted at school and can also be found in the Weekly Update and on the school website.

Who to Contact

Please call the school or school administrator if you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions about the school lunch program. Our current school administrator is Matthew Kranz, matthew.kranz@immanuelmankato.org.