

Federal School Food and Nutrition Program (FSFNP)

Free and Reduced-Price Lunches

- Do I need to submit an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced-price meals. Use one Application for Educational Benefits for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to include all required information. **Return the completed application to: Mrs. Traci Larsen, Food Services Coordinator, MCA, 9201 75th Ave. Brooklyn Park, MN 55428.**
- How do I get an application?** Applications are available on the MCA website (www.maranathachristianacademy.org) or by contacting Mrs. Traci Larsen, Food Services Coordinator, at (763) 488-7900. In an effort of respecting confidentiality of families, applications will not be available through Student Services.
- Who can get free meals?** Children in households getting Food Stamps or TANF and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines.
- Who can get reduced-price meals?** Your children can get reduced-price meals if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Income Guidelines Chart.
- Will other students know my child is getting a free or reduced-price meal?** No. In fact, your child doesn't have to know. Meal prices will be integrated into the software program. When your child's name is entered, the appropriate cost of the meal will be deducted from his/her balance.
- If I am approved for a reduced-price meal, how much will I pay per meal?** The current price of a reduced-price meal is 40 cents.
- If I don't qualify for a free or reduced-price meal, how much will I pay per meal?** The prices for lunches vary according to grade level (which is based on the FSFNP portion requirements):
Pre-k \$3.25 K-6 \$3.50 7-12 \$3.75
Due to rising costs of gas and food, there may be a need to re-evaluate these prices during the school year. If this occurs, parents will be notified of any changes.

Federal Income Guidelines Chart for Reduced-price Meals

Household Size	Monthly Income	Household Size	Monthly Income
1	1,670	4	3,400
2	2,247	5	3,976
3	2,823	6	4,553

Changes to Lunch Program

- What other changes will be made due to participating in the FSFNP?** Due to the FSFNP guidelines defining lunches, entrees', a la carte options, and fun packs will no longer be available.
- Will fun packs be available for field trips?** No, parents must provide bag lunches for field trips.
- What beverages will be available?** Milk will be served with all lunches. Students in Grades 7 – 12 will have the opportunity to purchase additional beverages, similar to those offered previously.

4. **What if my child is lactose intolerant?** Lactose-free milk will be substituted.

Caravan Kids Catering

1. **What is Caravan Kids?** Caravan Kids is a local catering company specializing in school lunches that are healthy, taste great and cooperate with the Federal School Food and Nutrition Program requirements.
2. **Are there other benefits to using a catering company like Caravan Kids?** Yes. Due to the large number of participating schools, Caravan Kids is able to get commodity pricing on quality foods; this allows larger portions that are value-priced. In addition, their healthy, made-from-scratch meals do not contain pork or peanut products.
3. **Will there still be pizza Friday?** Yes, the Caravan Kids menu includes cheese pizza, with a salad, on Fridays.

PayForIt.net

1. **What is PayForIt.net?** PayForIt.net is an online system for making payments to schools.
2. **What are the benefits of using PayForIt.net for my child's lunches?**
Parents benefit by:
 - Viewing your child's balance online - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
 - Scheduling automatic payments so your balance never reaches zero.
 - Paying the amount you choose; no more "exact change only."
 - Requesting balance alerts to be notified before your child's account reaches zero.Students benefit by:
 - Not having to bring money to school for lunches.
 - Not having to carry lunch cards or wear reminder stickers.
3. **Is there a fee for using PayForIt.net?** Yes, there is a 5.75% fee for each transaction.
4. **How long does it take for the payment to get into my child's account?** Usually by the next morning, but it may take up to 24 hours.
5. **Is PayForIt.net easy to use?** Yes, PayForIt.net is a user-friendly website that can walk you through setting up an account, step by step.
6. **If I do not have a computer, how do I make payments?** Parents of students in Grades Pre-k - 6 can send money (check [preferred method] or cash) to the teacher in a sealed envelope with the student's name, grade, and teacher listed on the front. The payment will be applied to the student's account. Students in Grades 7 - 12 can bring money (check or cash) to the cafeteria during their regularly scheduled lunch period. Amounts in excess of the purchase will be applied to the student's account; no "change/cash back" will be given. (For example, a student purchasing one meal at the cost of \$3.75 and paying with a \$5

bill; the \$1.25 difference will be applied to the account for future purchases. If the student pays with a check in the amount of \$50, the difference of \$46.25 will be applied).

7. **I think my child has a credit balance from last year? How do I find out?** Credit balances for students in Grades Pre-k – 6 will be applied to their accounts; you may check the balance when you create your PayForIt.net account. Students in Grades 7 – 12 who have a lunch card from last year should bring the card to Food Services table at the Secondary Back-to-School night, or to Student Services during the first week of school. The value of the lunch card will be applied to the student's account. (Please note: cards submitted at the Back-to-School event will be applied and available during the first week of school; cards submitted at school will be available as of the second week).
8. **When can I set up my account and begin using it?** PayForIt.net will be available to parents and students as of August 26, 2008.
9. **How does the automated system work in the lunchroom?** Computers will be stationed in both cafeterias for the purpose of accessing student accounts. Students in Grades Pre-k – 6 will be assisted by a staff member who will identify the student and enter the information by screen-touch. Students in Grades 7 – 12 will access their own accounts on a fingerprint pad. All account information will be secure and confidential.