



Tolland Public Schools Food & Nutrition Services

2020 -2021 School Year

Dear New Birch Grove Primary School Parents and Students,

Welcome to Birch Grove Primary School. I am sure you will find BGP to be an excellent place for your child to grow and learn. We hope that while your child is a student at BGP, he/she will find the Food & Nutrition Services Program full of delicious and healthy choices to help him/her succeed in school.

Food & Nutrition Services offers lunch daily and breakfast daily. The National School Lunch & Breakfast Programs require specific meal patterns. Each lunch served must include five components: a protein source, grain, a vegetable, a fruit and eight ounces of milk. At BGP, your child will have a choice of three entrees each day. There are also at least two vegetable choices, a variety of fruits and/or 100% fruit juice, and a variety of low and non-fat cold milks. A "dessert" item occasionally will be available as well. Your child may choose to decline two food components, as long as one of the chosen items is a fruit or vegetable, to complete a meal. Milk may be purchased ala carte for \$.75. School breakfast is available as a complete meal and includes a milk, a fruit and/or fruit juice and a variety of grains and protein. Students must select at least three of four offered items including the fruit. The lunch price is \$3.15 for paid students, .40 for reduced students, and will be free to those who qualify. The breakfast price is \$1.95 for paid students, .30 for reduced students and free to those who qualify.

All Tolland Schools have a Point-of-Sale (POS) system in their cafeterias. This technology allows us to provide debit accounts for purchases, and increases the speed of food service to students so they have more time to eat and converse. Parents enjoy the convenience of prepaying for their child's purchases at whatever level they choose. The POS system also eliminates the overt identification of students who are eligible for free or reduced meal benefits.

The POS system allows you to pay in advance for meals and/or a la carte items. There is an on-line program you can sign-up to use, you can send in a check with your child along with a payment form and students still have the option to pay cash on a daily basis. The identification of students is with a biometric finger-imaging device. The device converts the finger image into a numbered pattern that is then stored for future identification at the point-of-service. **This system is NOT associated with fingerprints. It CANNOT be used to identify students by lifting fingerprints and comparing them with the digital finger image.** The fingerprint is NOT stored in the computer. This is a positive identification system, only your child can access his/her account.

In the near future, Food & Nutrition Services will register the image of your child's index fingers. This will only have to be done once while your child is enrolled in the Tolland school system. The information stored on the POS system is only for use by this software in our department. There are several layers of security built into this software and the school district network. This is a closed system and it is not accessible from the Internet. If you do not want your child's finger image to be taken, please put your request in writing and return directly to the Birch Grove Primary School Office c/o Food & Nutrition Services by the day your child starts school. If no written notification is received, your child's finger will be scanned at the beginning of the school year.

We urge you to take full advantage of this system by placing money into your child's account on a weekly, monthly or annual basis. You choose the amount you want to deposit. Any money not spent by the end of school will be available for your child's use the following school year. You can access your child's account to make payments, verify his/her purchases, and receive email notifications when the account is running low by signing up for [My School Account](#) or you may request a report by calling the Cafeteria Manager at 860-870-6750, ext. 30118 or the Food & Nutrition Services Office at the Board of Education at 860-870-6854. Along with this letter, you will find a brief explanation of the POS and online "My School Account" program as well as a form you can use to send in your deposit if you choose to send a check to school.

We are proud of the quality of the program we offer at Birch Grove Primary School, and we do our best to keep our customers, the students of BGP, happy and well nourished. If you have any questions about the Food & Nutrition Services Program at Birch Grove Primary School, or any other Tolland School, you can reach me at the Food & Nutrition Services Office at 860-870-6854.

Sincerely,

Abby Kassman-Harned
Director of Food & Nutrition Services
Tolland Public Schools

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