



## Sarasota County Schools’ 2020 Back 2 School Guide – Food & Nutrition Services

For years, Sarasota County Schools has been at the forefront of serving delicious, nutritious school meals and using locally-grown products, whenever possible. The district’s Food & Nutrition Services department serves about 32,000 meals each day.

### FOOD & NUTRITION

#### School Lunches – Menus & Prices

Sarasota County Schools has digitized its school menus. Please visit our Nutrislice [link](#) to see individual school menus and nutritional information for each item.

#### BREAKFAST

	Reduced Price	Paid Price
Elementary	0.30	\$1.25
Middle	0.30	\$1.50
High	0.30	\$1.50
Adult		\$2.75

#### LUNCH

	Reduced Price	Paid Price
Elementary	0.40	\$2.50
Middle	0.40	\$2.75
High	0.40	\$3.00
Adult		\$4.00

#### Free and Reduced-Price Meals

Meals are made available on a reduced-price (Breakfast .30¢ and Lunch .40¢) or free basis to students from families who meet certain income requirements which are determined by the U.S. Government. Approximately 50% of our students currently receive free and reduced-price meals. Eligible parents are encouraged to apply online for their children to receive free and reduced-price meals throughout the school year, including breakfast and lunch.

- [Free and Reduced-Price Meals Application](#)
- [Income Eligibility Guide - Reduced Price Meals](#)

**Please note:** A new application must be filled out at the beginning of each school year in order for the meal benefits to continue. Meal benefits begin on the day the application is processed by Food & Nutrition Services and continue throughout the school year in which the application is approved, the summer and approximately the first thirty days of the next school year. Please call the toll-free phone number: 866-645-2688 or local: 941-486-2199 (7:00 AM - 4:30 PM) with any questions.

For comprehensive information on Food Stamps and other federal assistance programs for children in low-income families, visit [Florida Impact](#).

#### Add Money to Lunch Account

[My School Bucks](#) is a convenient online service that allows you to securely pay for your student's meals online using your credit/debit card. There is a \$2.49 fee for each transaction and the maximum amount for each transaction is \$120. With My School Bucks you can:

- Set up automatic recurring payments
- Order meals for remote learners

- Track and review meal history
- Create low balance alerts
- Make payments with the new mobile app (available on MySchoolBucks.com)

Registering for your **FREE** account is easy at MySchoolBucks.Com. Create a secure account and never worry again about sending cash or checks with your student(s) to school again. If you have questions, please call their toll-free help line: 1-855-832-5226.

### **Returned Check Policy & Procedures**

In an effort to curb the internal cost our district bears each year for returned checks (Non-Sufficient Funds, NSF, Account Closed, Fraud and Stop Payment), we have contracted with Checkredi of Florida. All checks accepted for payment by any Sarasota County public school are accepted with the understanding that the parents' or guardians' banks will pay those checks when deposited into the school's account. Please do not postdate a check when delivering one to the schools. Checkredi provides this service to numerous school districts in Florida and will oversee collecting checks for our district that are not honored by the check writer's bank. In addition to the face value of the check, Checkredi will also add a state allowable returned check fee to each returned check, based on the laws of the State of Florida.

The following is a summary of the base service charge authorized by the State of Florida for returned checks:

<u>Amount of the check</u>	<u>Service Charge</u>
\$.01 to \$50.00	\$25.00
\$50.01 to \$300.00	\$30.00
\$301.00 to \$800.00	\$40.00
\$800.01 or more	5% of the face of the face value of the check

Checkredi will send you a letter explaining the breakdown of the fees and charges should your check not be accepted by your bank. Checkredi receives all returned checks when they are not accepted by the bank. This allows our staff to focus on other duties that are more productive and beneficial to our Students. It also allows Parents/Guardians the opportunity to pay for any inadvertently returned item without the potential embarrassment that may be associated with paying it at the school. Please refer to this notice, provided by Checkredi, and feel free to contact them if you have additional questions, toll-free at 1-877-524-7334.

### **Food Allergies**

Food allergy forms for the 2020-21 school year should be available soon. When ready, the forms will be accessible on the district website [here](#), or available in your school's front office or health room.

Please access these links for additional resources and information related to food allergies:

- [American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology](#)
- [Food Allergy Research and Education](#)