



Welcome!

DEAR MASCONOMET COMMUNITY,

The beginning of the school year is approaching, and our Whitsons School Nutrition team is excited to provide nutritious, well-balanced meals to the Masconomet school community. Universal free school meals for all students in Massachusetts have been made permanent! This means we can offer all Masconomet students one lunch and one breakfast per day at no charge.

Free lunches will follow National School Lunch Program (NSLP) guidelines. One free lunch includes a serving of grains, meat or meat alternate, fruits, vegetables, and an optional 8oz low-fat milk. Students must select at least three of the five main food options, one of which must be serving of fruits or vegetables in order for their lunch to qualify as free. Please note, additional lunches are \$3.00 each and additional deli sandwiches are \$4.00 each. Individual entrée and side items included as part of a reimbursable free meal are not free on their own, and students will be charged à la carte pricing for these items. Side items such as cheese sticks, yogurt, and additional fruit or milk may be purchased à la carte.

Free breakfasts will follow the School Breakfast Program (SBP) guidelines. One free breakfast includes a serving of grains, meat or meat alternate, fruit, and an optional 8oz low-fat milk. Students must select at least three of the four main food options, one of which must be a fruit in order for their breakfast to qualify as free. Breakfasts that do not meet these guidelines, as well individual entrée and side items, do not qualify as free and will be subject to à la carte pricing. Additional breakfasts are \$2.25 each. For students that take advantage of the breakfast program, please note that breakfast must be eaten in the cafeteria and will not be permitted in classrooms or other areas on campus.

Although one breakfast and lunch per day are free, it is still extremely important all students check out at a cafeteria register to account for their free meals and purchase à la carte items. Checking out at a register ensures accurate reimbursement of free meals so funds spent are returned to the non-profit program.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION & PAYMENTS

Account payments can be made through MySchoolBucks.com using a debit/credit card or electronic check. We also accept cash and check payments at all cafeteria registers including in the Java Snack Shack. Please make checks payable to “Masconomet Regional School District” and include your student’s full name in the memo line. If a student chooses to pay cash for à la carte purchases, they will still be required to enter their PIN.

A MySchoolBucks account also provides you with the ability to view account balances, receive low balance alerts, set up automatic recurring payments, and view a history of purchases made on the account. Please note, there is a \$3.25 convenience fee for each deposit transaction made through MySchoolBucks. Please also be aware that our online payment program is separate from Tri-Town School Union’s, meaning we are unable to

issue refunds for Tri-Town students or transfer funds from students in one district to the other district.

Once you have created a MySchoolBucks user profile, each student will need to be added individually to your account using their student ID number included in this letter. Follow these steps to get started:

1. Download the app or visit MySchoolBucks.com and click on “Sign Up Free”.
2. Create a user profile with your email address, establish a password, and set up your security questions.
3. Add a student to your account using the student’s name, date of birth, and/or student ID number

Student ID numbers match the 6-digit Powerschool ID, so there is only one number to remember for both portals. All student PIN numbers contain 6 digits for improved security of their account. If the student already has an account established, their balance will be shown below:

Student Name:

Student ID:

Student PIN:

Balance:

Students must save their PIN and should not share it with anyone else. All students will be required to enter their PIN to receive their daily free meals (at no charge to their account) and to charge additional à la carte items. We recommend regularly monitoring student account balances and transactions through MySchoolBucks, and notifying the Food Service Director of any unrecognized transactions as soon as possible using the contact information provided at the end of this letter.

Please be aware, students with negative or zero balances will not be allowed to charge à la carte items (including 2nd lunch) to their account. This means they will be allowed to take their one free lunch and one free breakfast per day, but will be prevented from taking any additional items not included as part of free their free meals. If a student’s account balance becomes negative, communications from the district regarding their balance will follow.



The amount of money a student is allowed to spend on à la carte items can be limited, including preventing all à la carte purchases, by sending an email to the Food Service Director. At the end of the school year, any remaining balance will automatically roll over to students' accounts for the next school year. The balance may be refunded or transferred to a sibling at the request of the parent/guardian.

SCHOOL MEALS & MENUS

Our interactive menus can be found online at www.fdmealplanner.com/#masconomet. Interactive menus provide you with nutritional and allergen information including the ability to build an entire meal using specific options offered.

FOOD ALLERGIES & DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

We are able to reasonably modify meals to accommodate students with food allergies or dietary restrictions including but not limited to the top 9 food allergies, gluten-free, and lactose-free. All of our meals are peanut and tree nut free. For questions regarding food allergies, dietary restrictions, please contact the Food Service Director, Melissa Steinberg, at 978-887-2323 Ext. 71002 or msteinberg@masconomet.org.

FREE & REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS

Applications for Free and Reduced Price School Meals are available on the Masconomet.org website and in the main office of the Middle School and High School. A new application needs to be filled out for each school year, even though meals are free, additional benefits may be available to your family if you qualify. If you have any questions on the application process, please contact Laurie Zywiak at 978-887-2323 ext. 61020 or lzywiak@masconomet.org.

Thank you for your continued support! Please reach out to the Food Service Director with any questions, concerns, or feedback.

Sincerely,

Melissa Steinberg, MS, RDN, LDN
Food Service Director
Whitsons Culinary Group
20 Endicott Road
Boxford, MA 01921
978-887-2323 Ext. 71002
msteinberg@masconomet.org

Laurie Zywiak
District Accountant/Food Service
Masconomet Regional School District
20 Endicott Road
Boxford, MA 01921
978-887-8989 Ext. 61020
lzywiak@masconomet.org

