



September 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome back! As we begin the 2011-2012 School Year, we would like to offer some reminders to parents/guardians of current students, and information for our new families, regarding our food service program.

Chartwells, a subsidiary of Compass Group, is responsible for our Food Service Management. In a separate letter they will tell you a little about their organization and what they will bring to our district. Although we do not participate in the Federal or State lunch programs, we are required to follow all nutrition guidelines. The state has audited our lunch program and found it to be in compliance. While working within these guidelines our goal is to offer a healthy, quality, appetizing lunch. Although this is just our fifth year of experience operating a lunch program, so far it has exceeded our expectations. We have not had to subsidize our program in any way from our operating budget – and, in fact, have been able to replace old equipment and take on all costs associated with the cafeteria operation. Each year we meet with groups of parents, students and staff in a committee format to seek input on improving the program. Chartwells has been most receptive to concerns or suggestions, so please feel free to share any you might have. Questions/comments/concerns can be addressed through our lunch program email: foodservice@rumsonschool.org. You are also invited to stop by and see the lunch program for yourself at any time. Please use that same email to let us know you are interested in coming in.

In order for students to fully enjoy the lunch period, we have established accounts for each student to expedite the process. The account is accessed at the cashier station via a PIN number, so that the line can move quickly. Payment can be made at the register or parents may pre-pay lunches by sending in cash or a check which can be applied to that student's account. You may also use our on-line system, MealPay Plus, which allows the use of credit cards or automatic deposits. MealpayPlus (www.mealpayplus.com), is a state-of-the-art online service that offers you the convenience and information you need to manage your student's meal account. To create a new account, follow the onscreen directions at that website.

At **no cost**, MealpayPlus allows any family to: Create a free, secured account for monitoring the items your student has been purchasing in the cafeteria and to create settings to receive e-mail notifications when the account reaches a low balance.

For a **small program fee**, MealpayPlus allows any family to: Make a prepayment into your student's meal account using a check, credit card, or debit card at www.mealpayplus.com or by calling 1-866-727-3052. Funds deposited through MealpayPlus are usually available for student use within a day. You can also create settings to automatically replenish your student's account when it reaches a low balance. We strongly encourage all parents to create an account.

PLEASE NOTE: We have established guidelines for student accounts. When a student's account drops to \$5, he or she will receive a Low Balance Notice. If an account reaches a negative \$10 balance, it will be suspended, the student will be given a notice, and an alternate lunch will be given that day which you will still be responsible to pay for. **If your child has a negative balance to start the year, they will not be allowed to charge lunch. Please be sure to check on this prior to your child attempting to purchase a meal.** It is not our intention to create an uncomfortable situation, however, we are guided by strict regulations that do not allow us to incur negative balances in our accounts.

If you do not wish your child to make any purchases or you wish to make other restrictions to child's purchases, please email us at foodservice@rumsonschool.org or call Ms. Dos Santos, Cafeteria Manager, at (732)842-0330 ext 356.

Thank you for your continued support.

Denise Friedmann
Business Administrator
Rumson Borough School District