## BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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# **New School Lunch Online Payment System Now Available**

Dear Parents,

THOMAS S. KINGSTON

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (617) 993-5401

The Belmont Public Schools recently adopted a new Point of Sale payment system for all meals purchased in the district's cafeterias. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce this system to you and to describe the upcoming services that will be provided.

Nutrikids is a leading school lunch system provider. The program the company provides has three main components: the ability for schools to take payments without cash, a means for parents to be able to pre-pay for meals, and a system for parents to be able to obtain an itemized record of items purchased.

Every student will have his or her own personal meal account based on a four digit PIN. Your child's PIN is listed in the next section. Please give this number to your child. We recommend that all students memorize their numbers, in order to make the meal lines move faster. Younger children will be given the opportunity to practice entering their PINs before actually using them. If a student forgets a PIN, it can be accessed at any register.

#### **Making Payments Online**

MyNutrikids.com gives parents a fast, easy, secure way to add money to their children's school meal accounts (using a credit card, debit card, eCheck, or a PayPal account), to check their child's current school meal account balances, and to monitor what items their child has been purchasing at school.

To get started, simply go to <a href="www.belmont.k12.ma.us">www.belmont.k12.ma.us</a>, select "Online Meal Payments," and then click on "Sign Up Now" to create your account. You will need your child's student ID number. If you do not have your child's ID or PIN, please contact the Belmont Public Schools Technology Office, 617-993-5450. For complete information about making online payments, go to: <a href="www.mynutrikids.com/FAQs.aspx#sid">www.mynutrikids.com/FAQs.aspx#sid</a>.

We encourage parents to deposit money into the student's online account although they may still pay cash. When paying by check or cash, please include the student's name on the check or envelope and send it to your child's school office (not the classroom teacher) or cafeteria staff so it is deposited into the correct account.

Please see reverse for additional information. If you have any questions, contact Paul Browne, Director of Food Services, (617) 993-5871 or e-mail: <a href="mailto:pbrowne@belmont.k12.ma.us">pbrowne@belmont.k12.ma.us</a>.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Kingston

Interim Superintendent of Schools

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### Q. Can my child's account be used for other purchases at school?

A. No. When the account is prepaid, your student is only using that money for lunches/breakfasts served in our cafeteria. It cannot be used at vending machines.

#### Q. Who can see purchases made by my student?

A. Purchases can been seen only by the person who set up the online account and by the food service office.

# Q. I already have an online bill pay account. Why do I need another account to make school lunch payments online?

A. Nutrikids, a leading provider of school lunch Point of Sale systems, is a separate vendor from the online bill payment vendor used by the district, MCC. MCC, the online bill payment provider, did not submit a proposal to become the school lunch payment provider.

## Q. What are the benefits to making payments online?

A. Prepaid accounts for students allow parents to deposit money in their student's account in any amount at any time without concern about giving a student the exact change every morning. Prepayment also allows for better security. When student account balances get low, parents automatically receive notification by e-mail.

#### Q. How do I make online payments?

A. Payments are easy to make. Simply go to <a href="www.belmont.k12.ma.us">www.belmont.k12.ma.us</a>, select "Online Meal Payments," and create your account. You will need your student's ID number. For complete information about making online payments, go to: <a href="www.mynutrikids.com/FAQs.aspx#sid">www.mynutrikids.com/FAQs.aspx#sid</a>. There is a convenience fee of \$1.75 per transaction.

## Q. My child is receiving a free or reduced-price meal. Who will know they are getting a discounted meal?

A. For those students receiving free or reduced meals, their meals will be rung up as all the other meals. No one except the cashier will know whether they are receiving a free or reduced meal.

#### Q. Can my student continue to use cash?

A. Yes. Students will continue to have the option to pay cash; however, meal tickets will no longer be sold. If you have already purchased tickets, they will be honored at the register.

#### Q. How do students use their PIN? What happens if they forget it?

A. Pin pads are located at every register and provide both ease of use and speed for transactions. Students may use any register. If a PIN is forgotten, the cashier can look it up and complete the transaction. No student will be refused a meal.

# Q. How do I know another student will not use my child's PIN?

A. Although there is no guarantee a PIN will not be used by another child, each student's picture will be displayed on the register screen for identification by cafeteria staff.

## Q. Can I prepay even if I don't use the online system?

A. Yes. You can send in prepayment monies at any time. We recommend parents send in checks rather than cash. All monies should be submitted only to the school office or cafeteria personnel (not to the classroom teacher), and checks are to be made payable to <u>Belmont Public Schools</u>.

When sending a prepayment, please include the student's name on the face of the check. If you send in cash, please indicate the student's name on the face of the envelope.