

WIN-E-MAC SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Families,

At the Win-E-Mac school, we have experienced food shortages, and we know the importance of school meals in fueling both healthy minds and bodies. Even though school meals may look a little different during School Year 2021-2022, please know that your school nutrition team is working hard to ensure students have safe, nutritious, and appealing meals. Today, I am writing to share how our district is working to overcome food supply and labor challenges related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency so that students continue to receive school meals.

Across the country schools may not receive expected food orders due to labor shortages (such as delivery drivers) and limited product availability (for example, discontinued products or not enough of a specific type of product). As a result, we may need to make last-minute changes to the menu or substitute a different brand of a food product. We know that students have favorite menu items and we are working hard to provide them whenever possible. We are also thinking ahead to identify alternative food items that are nutritious and appealing for the students.

In addition to the food shortages all schools nation-wide are encountering, Win-E-Mac was notified that Cash-wa, our primary food vendor, was exercising their 60-day notification to end our contract with them. Up to 90 other schools in northern Minnesota and North Dakota received the same notification. Cash-wa's reason for this action included a shortage of over-night warehouse workers who stock trucks for delivery and competition for employees with the Amazon distribution center to be located in Fargo. We have been in conversation with other distributors in an effort to secure a new prime food vendor. We hope to make a smooth transition to a new food distributor in the next few weeks.

We appreciate your patience, flexibility, and understanding as we work to provide school meals in a challenging and changing environment. Please contact the Win-E-Mac School nutrition department with any questions, feedback, or suggestions at 218-563-2900 or via e-mail at cthompson@win-e-mac.k12.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Randy Bruer
Superintendent
Win-E-Mac School

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.