

## St. Rose of Lima School Nutrition Program Policies 2022-23

St. Rose of Lima participates in the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs and is pleased to offer nutritious meals to our students every day. Eating habits are formed early! The School Lunch Team works hard to offer kid friendly meals as well as opportunities to expand their budding tastes. Our menu and themed lunches also teach students food and nutrition education. The cafeteria is our nutrition “learning lab”.

**Lunch Meals:** Students in grades K-8 are encouraged to select a complete meal from the 5 food groups offered every day. However, they may choose to decline 2 food groups as long as they select at least a ½ c. fruit or vegetable. The PK menu is designed to offer our youngest students’ familiar foods while also encouraging them to try new foods. Water is available at both breakfast and lunch.

**School Breakfast:** A complete and nutritious school breakfast includes fruit and/or juice, milk, and a grain or another breakfast menu item. Cereal, fruit, fruit juice and milk are offered every day and a hot breakfast sandwich, fruit/yogurt smoothies or other breakfast foods may be available on a rotating basis.

**Special Dietary Needs:** If your child has a food allergy, please notify the school office and complete an emergency action plan form. Please note: we are NOT a peanut free school. We will make accommodations for food allergies (dairy, nut, gluten) that significantly impact a student’s daily activities. We are not required to accommodate “lifestyle food preferences” outside of our usual menu fare (i.e. vegan). However, please contact the school nutrition manager if your child has a dietary request and we will do our best to work with you and your family.

### **SCHOOL MEAL ACCOUNTS:**

School meal accounts are “prepaid” debit accounts which means money must be in your child’s account to purchase school meals and ala carte items such as milk.

Your account balance can be checked online at EZSchoolPay.com if you have set up an account. Parents are responsible for checking their child’s account balance on a regular basis and adding money as needed to cover purchases. Low balance notices can be set up on EZSchoolPay.com. You can also pay by credit card at EZSchoolPay.com.

**Paying for School Meals:** Account deposits may be made at any time by sending cash or a check to the school office. When sending in cash or check payments, please write your family name and “school lunch money” on the envelope. Do not combine school meal payments with other school payments. Payment may also be made by credit card in the school office or through EZSchoolPay.com. Credit card payments may not be made in the school office.

**Negative Account Balances:** Each week on Friday, an email notification will be sent to families with a negative account balance. Payment is expected in the office within 7 days. If a payoff arrangement is needed it is the parent/guardian’s responsibility to contact the principal or school office to set this up.

**Students will not be allowed to purchase “extras” or a *la carte* items if the family account balance due is greater than \$30 (account is more than \$30 negative).**

Unpaid meal charges not resolved within 30 days of the first notice being sent will be referred to the parish business office to determine a further course of action. For example, “charging” breakfast or lunch to the family’s account may not be allowed until the balance is paid or a payoff plan may be arranged. We will work with you on a payoff plan but you must contact us.

Report cards may be held each quarter if a family’s school meals account balance is negative.

At the end of the school year, money in school meals accounts will be refunded if requested; otherwise it will be rolled over to the next school year. Families who owe money to the lunch program will be billed for the amount due with payment due by June 15. Report cards will be held until the negative balance is paid in full.

### **Breakfast and Lunch Prices:**

The paid school lunch price for 2022-23 is \$3.25/lunch. Reduced price is \$.40. One carton of milk is included in the school meal. Milk purchased *a la carte* is \$.60/ carton if lunch is brought from home. Extra entrees are \$1.00 each and extra side dishes are \$.50 each. Extra vegetables are free. If you do not want your child to purchase “extras” please let the office know and your account will be marked as such.

Breakfast is offered FREE to all students each morning from 7:15-7:45 am.

Meal purchases are posted in real time via EZSchoolPay.com. Families can monitor charges to their account at any time once they have created an EZSchoolPay.com account.

### **FREE/REDUCED PRICED MEAL Applications**

An application for free or reduced-price meals may be made at any time during the school year. Families who qualify for these benefits are eligible for the entire school year and the first 30 operating days of the next school year or until a new application is processed, whichever comes first. A new application must be submitted every year. If a family is directly certified for free or reduced priced meals it is not necessary to complete a paper application. Please contact Laura Pasos at [lpasos@stroselions.net](mailto:lpasos@stroselions.net) if you need assistance with the application. You will receive a written notice (via email) if your application was approved or denied or you have been directly certified.

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider.**

August 2022