

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Michigan School Meals

Dear West Catholic and Elementary School Families,

We are excited to share some good news! West Catholic and all six of our elementary schools have been approved to participate in the Michigan School Meals program.

Beginning October 1, 2026, **breakfast and lunch** will be available at no cost to ALL students through the Michigan School Meals program. Milk only purchase will remain \$.60 and a purchase of a second entree/double will be \$2.00.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and families, and we are excited to be able to participate!

An Important Note About Funding

We also want to be transparent with our families about the funding for this program.

The State of Michigan has allocated \$3 million specifically for eligible non-public schools across the state to participate in Michigan School Meals. Unfortunately, based on the number of non-public schools participating, the State has informed us that this funding is not expected to be sufficient to cover the entire 2026–2027 school year.

At this time, the State anticipates that funding for non-public schools could be exhausted as early as December 2026 or January 2027. The exact date is not known and will depend on program participation and available funding.

What Happens If the State Funding Runs Out?

If the state funding is exhausted before the end of the school year:

- **We will return to charging for breakfast and lunch.**
- **Students who qualify for Free or Reduced-Price Meals will continue to receive meals at no cost or at the reduced rate, as applicable.**
- **Milk only purchases will remain \$.60**
- **Second entree/doubles will remain an additional \$2.00**
- **We will communicate with families in advance if a change to meal pricing becomes necessary.**

The federal portion of the program will continue throughout the fiscal year; however, the additional state funding that makes meals free for all students may not.

Please Continue to Complete the Education & Nutritional Benefits Application

Even though meals will be free beginning October 1, we strongly encourage **every family to complete the Education and Nutritional Benefits Application (ENBA)**. These applications are important because they help determine eligibility for Free or Reduced-Price Meals and may also help your family and our schools qualify for additional benefits and funding for tutoring and other services.

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We are grateful to the State of Michigan for providing this opportunity and are excited to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students beginning October 1. We will continue to monitor the funding situation closely and keep our families informed as we receive updates from the State.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and our Food Service program!

West Catholic Food Service

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