



GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has just extended the Universal Meals waiver until **December 31st**. This means the Gateway Regional School District will be serving ALL meals in all schools **FREE for all students** through December 31st. This is an unprecedented move by the USDA and should go a long way in helping to make things easier for all families who have been affected by the ongoing pandemic and economic recession.

Gateway Food Services is also pleased to announce that due to generous donations this summer, all student negative balances were **paid in full** for the 2019/2020 school year. All students who had negative balances at the end of last year are now beginning this school year with a \$0 balance! We are so thankful for the kind hearted generosity of the folks in our Gateway Community who so willingly gave in service of all our families.

Gateway Food Services has been hard at work planning the changes needed to serve our students safe, healthy, and delicious meals. This will be an unprecedented school year filled with formidable challenges, but our dedicated team is ready to meet every need of our students with health & safety as the top concern. We have formed 4 different meal services to meet those needs. All meals will be served prepackaged to ensure safety. The Elementary students will be served Meals in the Classroom (MIC). MS/HS will be coming to the Cafeteria to eat while socially distancing. 5th & 6th grade will be Grab & Go to the classroom, where they will be coming to the Cafeteria to “Grab” their meal and “Go” back to the classroom to eat. We will also be providing a Curbside “Meals to Go” Program for all of our students for the days they will be remote learning from home. Meal pick up will be on Tuesdays & Fridays each week from 2pm-6pm, and will include multiple meals to cover non-pickup days. We wanted to provide the opportunity for all families to be able to have access to meals for their students, whether they are at home with their child or at work. We are hopeful that this afternoon/evening pickup time will make the process more convenient and accessible for all.

Curbside “Meals to Go” Info: The 1st day of the Curbside “Meals to Go” Program will be **Tuesday September 15th**. Pick up of meals will be between the hours of 2pm-6pm. The location will be at the Gateway MS/HS Complex outside the MS/HS Cafeteria doors. This is the same location as during the school shut down in the spring. Families will be able to drive around the circle driveway and in between the buildings to pick up meals at any time between 2pm-6pm, except during student pickup and bus loading once students begin “phasing in”. When families are here to pick up their students from school, they will need to park and walk to the “Meals to Go” site to receive their meals. Please remember to socially distance while outside of your vehicles. Friday Sept 18th will be the next meal pick up day. More detailed information will follow.

Gateway Food Services would like to assure you that school kitchens are among the safest, most sanitary facilities in the country for food preparation. Many of the daily cleaning & operating procedures moving forward will be a continuation of the strict protocols we already have in place. All Food Service Staff will be wearing masks, gloves, and plastic aprons and, as usual, all PPE will be changed frequently in order to prevent cross contamination. We will be working with the maintenance

& custodial team closely when it comes to cleaning procedures and assistance during and in between meal services. Vendors/delivery drivers are also expected to be wearing masks at ALL times when entering the buildings for delivery. Maintenance has installed clear plastic sheeting at each register in the MS/HS as well as protective panels in both Elementary kitchens to provide protection for students and staff..

Gateway Food Services will be doing our part to help keep everyone healthy and safe while providing delicious, nutritious meals to our students and staff. We hope this will bring families some peace of mind as we continue to face community health and economic challenges.

For questions & additional information, contact:

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