



Dear Springfield Public Schools Families,

On behalf of Springfield Public Schools Dining, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your student(s) to the 2021-22 school year!

With day-to-day life beginning to return to normal, we wanted to share some great news that will affect all students: In April 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service extended the program that will provide for **free meals for all students, regardless of income, for the 2021-22 school year**. This has been made possible by nationwide waivers that provide for free meals for all students through June 2022.

We are thrilled to continue to **safely** serve students delicious, fresh and nutritious meals at no charge, and we are equally excited to re-introduce our favorite programs to deliver fun, exciting and tasty experiences to students throughout the coming year:

- Global Flavors menu promotions, highlighting recipes inspired by Hawaiian, Italian, Indian, East Asian and Thai cuisines. First up: Our Hawaiian Chicken Rice Bowl – yum!
- Special events celebrating national food days and seasonal flavors. We love highlighting fresh produce on our menus, and events like National Peach Month and Fall Fest are ideal opportunities for showcasing the freshest flavors of the season.
- Our Feed Your Potential 365 program www.fyp365.com offering delicious recipes, nutrition news and health insights to help support wellness at school and at home.
- New adventures with our mascot, Ace, providing a fun approach to building healthy habits that reinforce good nutrition and exercise

Check out our daily menus at sps.nutrislice.com and stay up to date on the latest news on SPS Public Schools Facebook page and web site, sps.org.

Even though meals are free this year, please fill out the application for Free and Reduced meal benefits. The 2021-2022 application only takes a few minutes to complete and is available on line at sps.org. For every student that qualifies for free or reduced priced meals, Springfield Public Schools receives federal and state funds that can be used for:

- Additional teachers and instructional support, especially for students struggling in math and reading.
- Support for students in the areas of attendance, behavior, science, technology, engineering, and math instruction.
- Parent involvement activities in school.
- Professional learning for staff, which helps improve instruction and increase student achievement.

If we can assist in any way please contact our team at 417-523-1100.

We can't wait to serve your student(s)!

Best wishes for a successful 2021-22 school year,

Kim Keller
SPS Nutrition Services Director