

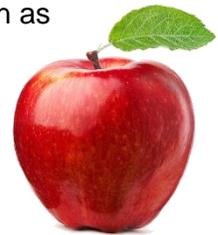
OCSD Connections

Parent / Family Newsletter – August 12, 2020

Marcus D. Chambers, Superintendent of Schools

Curriculum and Instruction

As we are gearing up for the upcoming school year, many uncertainties still remain as it relates to COVID-19. Rest assured, as a District, we are planning for these uncertainties to every extent possible.



Over the summer, groups of teachers, principals, and District Staff have collaborated to create *mySchool Online*. As of the August 1st deadline, approximately 6,700 or 23% of Okaloosa students have opted to begin the year on *mySchool Online*.

Information has been provided for *mySchool Online*, but questions are still to be expected. Below you will find answers to some of the questions we are frequently asked regarding *mySchool Online*.

- ***If my child starts the year in the brick and mortar classroom, can they transition to mySchool Online?***

Families can decide to transition to *mySchool Online* at any point in the school year. Families will then have the option to return to their brick and mortar school at the conclusion of each nine weeks.
- ***How different is the pacing of curriculum from mySchool Online to the brick and mortar classroom?***

The goal is to have students easily transition from one school option to another. The *mySchool Online* and brick and mortar pacing guides have been aligned so all students will be learning the same standards at the same time.
- ***If my child is absent from a live, virtual lesson, how will he/she be able to keep up instructionally?***

The *mySchool Online* teacher will have a posted schedule that includes small group instruction, as appropriate. The live, virtual instruction will be recorded so a student can either view or review the material at an appropriate time. If a student requires additional support individually or in a small group, he/she should be present for the live, virtual instruction.

School Cafeteria Updates for 2020-2021

Plans are in place at each school to reduce the number of students eating lunch at one time in the cafeteria. Each school plan has been developed based on its own facility and schedule.

- Based on a federal waiver, schools have a longer window of time during the day to serve lunch this year. The expanded lunch time will result in fewer students in the cafeteria at any given time. Schools with two lunch sessions could now have three. Those with three lunches could move to four.
- Schools are identifying other locations in the building for students to eat lunch such as outside space and vacant classrooms that will further reduce the number of students in the cafeteria.



- Food service lines will be protected by a clear barrier. Cafeteria staff will wear masks when preparing or serving food. At lunch, meals will be plated by food service workers using pre-packaged items whenever possible. Breakfast items will be bagged giving students the ability to eat in multiple locations based on the school's plan.
- Hand sanitizer is available in all cafeterias.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will occur between meal service and at the end of the day.
- No touch options are available for meal payment to include a student scannable lunch card. The student can also provide their name at the register to process lunch payment.
- **NOTE:** Students who selected *mySchool Online* and who qualify for free or reduced-price meals will be able to pick up meals from the school this fall. More information on this will be provided closer to the beginning of the school year.
- The application window for meal assistance opened August 4, 2020. Families can pick up a paper application from their school or apply online at <http://www.myschoolapps.com>.

2020-2021 School Year Meal Prices

- Student Breakfast \$1.80
- Student Reduced Breakfast \$0.30
- Student Lunch \$2.70
- Student Reduced Lunch \$0.40
- Milk \$0.65