



**Lorna Mangano**  
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**Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick**  
*Superintendent-Director*

## FOOD SERVICE ACCESS/POINT-OF-SALE PROGRAM

To: Parents/Guardians  
From: Valley Tech Food Service Department

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back for the 2020-2021 school year! As we return to school, we want to provide you with information pertaining to student lunches, lunch accounts and meal access. It is important to note that we are returning to school in a tiered system that involves both in-person and distance learning models. As we prepare to open school, we have created, and are implementing, new systems to ensure the safety of students and staff.

### CAFETERIA ACCESS (In-Person Learning):

We have developed cafeteria procedures to ensure we are following State mandated regulations specific to student seating, cafeteria capacity and food access (see the enclosed Cafeteria Procedures). Please note: students that bring lunches will not have access to the microwave and should plan accordingly. Students will have the ability to access both “hot” and “cold” lunch options when in the building.

### MEAL ACCESS (Distance Learning):

The District is currently developing plans to address access to school meals for students that are in the Distance Learning model. If you plan to access meals during the Distance Learning model, please contact [cafemeals@valleytech.k12.ma.us](mailto:cafemeals@valleytech.k12.ma.us). Visit the BVT website for more information.

### LUNCH ACCOUNT ACCESS (All Educational Tiers):

In an effort to better serve the student body, Valley Tech utilizes NutriKids POS payment system which allows for prepayment of monies to a student’s meal account. The Cafeteria serving lines are cashless.

Students access their personal meal account by entering a unique four-digit student ID number on PIN pads located at each serving line register. If a student forgets his/her ID, it can easily be found on the student ID badge that is required to be worn throughout the day and during the lunch period.

We encourage parents to maintain awareness of their child(ren)’s balance and deposit funds into the student’s meal account to ensure adequate funds are available for breakfast and lunch. In addition to breakfast and lunch, monies paid into a student account can be used to purchase other a-la-carte items.

If your child(ren) qualifies for **free or reduced** price breakfast and lunch, be assured that their status is kept secured and anonymous (there is no distinction between a full-pay and free or reduced students).

\*For more information on National School Lunch & Breakfast program free or reduced application information, please see page 2.

## FEATURES OF NUTRIKIDS COMPUTERIZED POS SYSTEM

- Lunch lines move faster when meals are prepaid, thus providing students time to enjoy their lunch period.
- Pin pads are located at every terminal; they provide ease of use and allow for quick transactions.
- Prepayment provides better security and assures that money is available for the purchase of breakfast & lunch.
- When the student's account gets low, they will be informed at the register.
- Parents can pay any amount at any time. Students can prepay in one of the following ways:
  - Mailing a check to (Payable to BVT):  
Blackstone Valley Vocational RSD  
Attn: Business Office  
65 Pleasant Street  
Upton, MA 01568
  - Online via Unibank's Secure Website (<https://unipaygold.unibank.com/TransactionInfo.aspx?transid=918>)
  - Online via "**My School Bucks**" (<https://www.myschoolbucks.com/>)

## COST OF LUNCH AND PAYMENTS BY CHECK

- Reimbursable Breakfast cost \$1.25 (Full Pay) and \$.30 (Reduced).
- Reimbursable Lunches cost \$3.15 (Full Pay) and \$.40 (Reduced).  
Checks are to be made payable to **Blackstone Valley Vocational RSD**. **When paying by check, please note the student's name and four-digit ID number in the memo section.**

**Should have any questions, please contact the business office at 508-529-7758 x3026.**

## National School Lunch & Breakfast Program/Free and Reduced Application Announcement

Children from households that meet federal guidelines [below] are eligible for free or reduced price meal services. Complete one application per household for all children that attend the same school district. If you receive a letter that states your child(ren) are eligible for free meals via the direct certification process, you do **NOT** need to complete an application to receive free meal benefits.

To complete an online application, visit [www.ValleyTech.SchoolLunchApp.com](http://www.ValleyTech.SchoolLunchApp.com). It's fast, environmentally friendly and results are available within 24 to 48 hours. If you do not have access to a computer or prefer to print your own paper application you can pick one up in the main office or business office or visit at [www.ValleyTech.k12.ma.us](http://www.ValleyTech.k12.ma.us); the application is located under "Parents & Students" / "Food & Nutrition." Please be aware paper applications require up to five days to account for the additional time needed for mail delivery and manual processing. Households must answer all applicable questions. Incomplete applications cannot be processed.

Households may apply for benefits at any time during the school year. Homeless, migrant, runaway youth and foster care children are categorically eligible for free meals. Households that do not agree with the determination may request a fair hearing.



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The following household size and income criteria will be used to determine eligibility:

## INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (Effective July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	Reduced Meals (185%)				
	YEAR	MONTH	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	WEEK
1	23,606	1,968	984	908	454
2	31,894	2,658	1,329	1,227	614
3	40,182	3,349	1,675	1,546	773
4	48,470	4,040	2,020	1,865	933
5	56,758	4,730	2,365	2,183	1,092
6	65,046	5,421	2,711	2,502	1,251
7	73,334	6,112	3,056	2,821	1,411
8	81,622	6,802	3,401	3,140	1,570
<b>Each additional family member, add</b>	<b>+8,288</b>	<b>+691</b>	<b>+346</b>	<b>+319</b>	<b>+160</b>

All meals served must meet the meal requirements as defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If a child has been determined by a doctor to have a disability and the disability would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal (or alternate), Valley Tech staff, in conjunction with doctor recommendations, will make substitutions at no extra charge. If your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please contact the school for further information.

**Non-discrimination Statement:** This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.