

Dear Parents:

THE AUTOMATED CAFETERIA SYSTEM

This school district is in the process of installing a new automated point of sale system in our school cafeterias. The system we have elected to install is provided by Systems Design, a Texas based company engaged only in the automation of school district child nutrition programs.

The automated point of sale system is designed to provide for the accumulation of accurate data regarding transactions occurring when students, teachers, and visitors are served meals and ala carte items in the school cafeteria. This data is required by the National School Lunch Program of which this district is a participant. This new system is a comprehensive one which also permits the automation of free and reduced applications processing, inventory controls, government reporting, and numerous other functions.

The school lunch program requires that we keep the status of each student, either free meal, reduced price, or full price, completely private at the point that meals are served. Since this automated system provides for covert student identification, we will now be able to more easily comply with existing school lunch program regulations.

Students will be using the school district identification number as their cafeteria account number. This will require the student to know only one number for most of the school activities to include obtaining meals in the cafeteria. We may use one of several methods for the student to use their identification numbers at the point of sale. In the lower grades we will use identification cards with names and bar code numbers which will be maintained in the cafeteria. Upper grades may use identification cards with bar code numbers or key pads on which the student will enter their number. In either case positive student identification is required. Students will be encouraged to use the prescribed identification methods, but if required, the cafeteria cashier will be able to look up any students number and serve meals to that student. Please be sure that all students will be served meals regardless.

The system is designed so that students may deposit money on account and use that account just like a debit bank account. We will encourage parents to prepay for meals if possible as it is a feature that increases efficiency for the cashier. Your accounts will be protected and are private. We will also keep detailed history on each students meal purchases, cash transactions, and account balances. This information may be made available to parents on request. Balances in a students account may be used at any campus as the system uses the wide area network of the district and a central computer. Parents may even issue one check or cash deposit for two or more children regardless of the campus assignments. Deposits on students accounts may be made at any cashier station.

We anticipate that for a few days lunch lines may move a little slower than usual as our cashiers learn and the students adapt to the new system. After this time we are confident that cafeteria operations will return to normal and may even experience faster lines.

Thank you for your students participation in our cafeteria food service program. We continue in our efforts to serve you and your student better and in a more efficient manner. Our main concern is and will be the provision to our customers the best in child nutrition.

Respectfully,

District Food Service Director