

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Wellsboro Area food service department and The Nutrition Group is preparing for the start of the new school year. The 2012-2013 school terms will bring new nutrition standards that are required to be instituted by the federal government. All of the new regulations are a part of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act (HHFKA), passed as a law by Congress and promoted by the First Lady, Michelle Obama.

Some of the changes that will take place within the school lunch program include: increasing portion sizes of fruits and vegetables (one of which will be a necessary selection to qualify for a lunch), increasing the daily amount of whole grains offered (as in the form of breads, pastas, cereals, breadings etc.), increasing the variety of vegetables (including more green and orange vegetables and legumes), fat free and low fat flavored and unflavored milks and reduced sodium content in food choices to name a few. This upcoming year will be full of dietary changes, but all of the changes are intended to provide a healthier opportunity for lunch.

At the start of the school year, we will provide information and materials that will help the students and staff familiarize themselves with the changes that are upon us. We are in the process of developing literature and signage that will assist in a smooth transition.

An area that has every district concerned is breakfast and lunch prices. Two elements will have an effect on the price charged to paid students. The first element is the implementation of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act. The other is the direction of the Federal and State Government to conform to "price equity". The intent of Price equity is to charge all paid students the amount being reimbursed to free students less any reimbursement that the paid student receives, for each meal served. Along with the adjustment to the meal prices, all the al-cart prices will have to be adjusted to be in compliance with the National School Lunch and Breakfast program. The charges are all part of the (HHFKA) that was mandated in the bill.

We realize that no one likes the idea of having to raise prices. However, districts are in the position of not having another alternative. We hope you understand and continue with your support with the National Breakfast and Lunch Program.

Thus, as you can see, we are also in the mode of change. The assurance we give you is that we will continue to be in the forefront in regard to providing a quality meal to the students at the best price possible. Your support is essential to the continued growth and development of the foodservice program and we sincerely hope it will continue to flourish over the years to come.

Best wishes for a safe and happy 2012-2013 school year,

Sincerely,

The Nutrition Group

[www.thenutritiongroup.biz](http://www.thenutritiongroup.biz)