

August 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the 2026-27 school year! We're excited to introduce ourselves as the new food service provider for Lansing Schools. It's our privilege to serve students daily with a nutritious breakfast and lunch. Throughout the year, we'll roll out new menu options, gather feedback, and make improvements to enhance the dining experience. Here's a quick look at what you and your child can expect, including what's available in the cafeteria, meal pricing details, how to apply for free or reduced-price meals, our approach to managing food allergies (including required documentation), and a preview of the new recipes, meal concepts, and programs launching this fall.

Delicious, Nutritious Foods Kids Love

Our team of chefs and dietitians at Chartwells is introducing even more variety to our menus this year, featuring new kid-approved recipes and continuing to offer consistent favorites. All items served meet USDA National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and Smart Snack guidelines.

- In **K-8 schools**, students can choose from four entrees daily, including hot and cold options. Meals come with low-fat white or flavored milk and a variety of fresh and prepared fruits and vegetables.
- In **middle and high schools**, students will have six entrée station options each day, also including vegetarian selections, plus fruits, vegetables, and milk.
- A la carte items like bottled drinks and packaged snacks will be available for purchase at middle and high school locations.

This year's NEW featured menu highlights include:

- **Pizza Daze:** A celebration of everyone's favorite slice, Pizza Daze is a limited-time campaign bringing students together with craveable classics and creative spins that make every lunch feel like a win!
- **Nutrition: Game On:** This fall, elementary students will experience our brand-new nutrition education program designed to make healthy habits fun, engaging, and meaningful! Nutrition: Game On turns nutrition education into a year-long adventure where learning about food feels more like a game than a lesson. Each month, students will embark on a new themed "mission" that explores food, movement, and healthy choices through storytelling, activities, and experiences in the cafeteria.

School meals are a reliable way to ensure students get nutritious, balanced meals while reducing food waste and easing the burden of rising grocery costs on families.

Free Meals for All Students!

For the 2026-27 school year, Michigan has authorized universal free meals for all students. This means that students can enjoy breakfast, lunch and snacks at no cost for the entire school year.

Adding Funds to Student Accounts

While school meals are free for all students this year, kids still have the opportunity to purchase additional retail and à la carte items in the cafeteria.

Food Allergies & Special Dietary Needs

We are committed to safely supporting students with food allergies or medical dietary needs. Our approach includes collaboration among families, school nurses, administrators, and food service staff.

To request a meal accommodation:

- Submit a **Medical Statement** signed by a licensed medical provider (physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner).
- The statement must include:
 - Information about the child's impairment that is sufficient for understanding how it restricts the child's diet,
 - An explanation of what must be done to accommodate the child's disability, and
 - If appropriate, the food(s) to be omitted, texture modifications, and recommended substitutions.

Submit the completed form to and confirm receipt and plan activation with Resident District Manager Joanne Vanhouten (joanne.vanhouten@compass-usa.com)

Programs that Encourage Fun and Discovery

We're making school meals fun and educational with programs that promote discovery and lifelong healthy habits:

- **Nutrition: Game On:** Our newest program turns nutrition education into a year-long adventure where learning about food feels more like a game than a lesson.
- **Global Eats:** Explore cuisines from China, India, Italy, Mexico, Korea, and the Caribbean.
- **Discovery Kitchen:** Monthly themes get students cooking, tasting, and learning about nutrition.
- **Power Up:** Teaching students how to stay energized and hydrated for whatever the day may bring, with recipes featuring a variety of nutritious, macro-rich ingredients.

Menus and Nutrition at Your Fingertips

Stay informed with **Nutrislice**, a free app that provides menus, nutrition info, allergen details, and photos. Download from the **App Store** or **Google Play**, or visit

<https://lansingschooldistrict.nutrislice.com/>

Note: Product substitutions may occur that affect allergens or nutritional content. If substitutions are made, meals may differ from posted menus to ensure safety. While we strive to update Nutrislice in real time, it's best to check directly with the cafeteria manager for allergy-related questions. Please remind your child to speak with the cafeteria staff about any food concerns.

Celebrating Our School Lunch Heroes

Our cafeteria staff is a constant source of support for students throughout their school years. These dedicated team members work hard every day to make mealtimes nutritious and

enjoyable. We're looking for new team members! Join our dining services staff for a family-friendly schedule (no nights or weekends), great perks, and more. Learn more or apply at <https://careers.compass-usa.com/jobs?keyword=1553018>

We're proud to share our passion for food, discovery, and nutrition with your children. If you have questions, feedback, or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you. Here's to a happy and healthy school year!

Sincerely,
Joanne Vanhouten
Joanne.vanhouten@compass-usa.com
O. 517-755-2755