MORTON
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

Sept. 8, 2020

Free lunch program renewed in Morton schools

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has renewed its free food service program through the end of 2020. *All Morton children ages 1 to 18* – not just Morton Schools students -- are eligible for the free lunches, regardless of family income.

The program is a carryover from the free lunch program instituted last spring because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It applies to full regular meals. There will still be a small charge for side, or a la carte items, as well as drinks including milk.

All families wishing to sign up for the Community Lunch *pickup* program must register their children by filling out a short form. They can do so here, and must commit for a month at a time. If you have students attending school in person, there is no need to register

The first deadline is *noon* this coming *Friday, Sept. 11*, which will cover the remainder of this month. Thereafter, the sign-up deadline will be noon on the last Friday of every month. For October, that will be *Sept. 25*; for November, *Oct. 30*; and for December, *Nov. 27*. If you're interested in participating, you must fill out the form every month.

Weekly pickups, five meals per child, will start on *Monday, Sept. 14*, at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center at Morton High School, 350 N. Illinois Ave., and continue on the first day of every school week thereafter. If Monday is a holiday,

for example, the pickup will be on Tuesday. The meals will be distributed between 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. at the Bertha Frank main entrance.

The program is retroactive to Sept. 1, so if you've already paid for lunches, your account will be credited. Previously, the meals have been priced at $2.70, $2.80 and $2.90 at the grade schools, junior high school and high school, respectively.

Any questions should be directed to Kristina Klein, operations supervisor at Arbor Management, which runs the Morton Schools food service program, at kristina.klein@mcusd709.org, or at 309-284-6320.

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