

# **Saints Joseph and John School**

## **School Nutrition Program**

### **Meal Charge Policy**

#### **School Year 2026–2027**

This Meal Charge Policy follows guidance from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

#### **Meal Service**

Saints Joseph and John School offers lunch to all enrolled students on school days. Families are encouraged to apply for free or reduced-price meal benefits by submitting a meal application. Meal applications are available through the school office and on the Saints Joseph and John School SMS.

#### **Meal Prices**

- **Lunch:**

- Full Price: **3.85**
- Reduced Price: **\$0.00**

\*The normal cost for a reduced-price meal is \$0.40; however, Ohio is covering the cost of reduced-price meals for fiscal years 2025–2026 and 2026–2027.

- Free: **\$0.00**

#### **Second Meals and À La Carte Items**

In addition to reimbursable meals, students may purchase second meals or à la carte items. Payments are recorded through the school's Point-of-Sale system, and purchases are tracked by individual student accounts.

#### **Meal Charges and Negative Balances**

Saints Joseph and John School permits students to receive a reimbursable meal even if their account is not current resulting in a negative balance.

- Parents/guardians will be notified in writing if a student's meal account reaches a negative balance.
- Families are encouraged to make payment promptly upon notification.
- A debt collector will **not** be used to collect unpaid meal fees.
- No action will be directed toward a student to collect unpaid meal fees.
- Students will never be denied a reimbursable meal as a means of collecting payment.
- The school may work with families to establish a payment plan, if needed.

### **Negative Balance Threshold**

Once a \$50.00 is reached:

- Families will be contacted to discuss options.
- The school will assist families with the free and reduced-price meal application process, if applicable.
- Students will continue to receive a nutritious meal.
- At no time will cafeteria staff shame students, identify them based on meal status, or treat students differently due to a negative balance.

### **Notification of Policy**

At the beginning of each school year, parents/guardians will be notified of this Meal Charge Policy. The policy will be posted on the Saints Joseph and John School SMS, and all food service staff will be trained on its implementation.

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### **Nondiscrimination Statement**

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