

Letter to Parents for School Meal Program

September, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Nativity of our Lord School offers healthy meals every school day. Lunch is available at a cost of \$2.75. Children from households that meet Federal income guidelines (outlined below) are eligible for free meals or reduced priced meals. Reduced price meals cost each eligible student \$.25 for lunch. To apply for free or reduced price meals, submit a Direct Certification letter from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance **OR** complete the enclosed application, sign it, and return it to Ruth Frost as soon as possible. Please refer to the guidelines contained in this letter when completing the application. We cannot approve any application that is not complete so be sure to fill out all required information.

1. **Do I need to fill out an application for each child?** No. Complete the application to apply for free or reduced price meals. **Do not fill out more than one** application for your household.
2. **Who can get free meals?** Children in households getting Food Stamps or TANF and most foster children can get free meals regardless of your income. Also, your children can get free price meals if your household income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Guidelines. Each foster child must be listed on a separate application, with Part 2 completed and include an adult signature.
3. **Can homeless, runaway and migrant children get free meals?** Please call the Food Service Office 631-474-8348 to see if your child (ren) qualifies, if you have not been informed that they will get free meals.
4. **Who can get reduced price meals?** Your children can get low cost meals if your household income is within the reduced price limits on the Federal Income Chart, shown on this application.
5. **Should I fill out an application if I received a letter this school year saying my children are approved for free or reduced price meals?** Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at 662-7572 if you have questions.
6. **I get WIC; can my child (ren) get free meals?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out an application.
7. **Will the information I give be checked?** The school may ask you at any time during the school year to verify your eligibility. You will be notified, in writing, if you have been selected for Verification. School officials may ask you to send papers showing that your child should receive free or reduced price meals at the time you applied.
8. **If I don't qualify now, may I apply later?** Yes. You may apply at any time during the school year if your household size goes up, income goes down, or if you start getting Food Stamps, TANF or other benefits. If you lose your job, your children may be able to get free or reduced price meals.
9. **What if I disagree with the schools' decision about my application?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing Michael Kerwin, 441 South Buffalo Street, Orchard Park, NY 14127 (662-7572).
10. **May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen?** Yes. You or your child (ren) does not have to be a U.S. citizen to qualify. For free or reduced price meals.
11. **Who should I include as members of my household?** You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends). You must include yourself and all children who live with you.
12. **What if my income is not always the same?** List the amount that you normally get. For example, if you normally get \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only got \$900, put down than you get \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get it only sometimes.

Income Chart: The following chart lists income levels according to household size and income levels received either yearly, monthly or weekly. If your total household income is the same or less than the

amounts on the Income Level Chart below your children can get reduced price meals, and may be eligible to receive free meals.

REDUCED PRICE ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART
Effective from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

Household Size	Annual	Month	Twice Monthly	Bi-Weekly	Weekly
1.....	20,036	1,670	835	771	386
2.....	26,955	2,247	1,124	1,037	519
3.....	33,874	2,823	1,412	1,303	652
4.....	40,793	3,400	1,700	1,569	785
5.....	47,712	3,976	1,988	1,836	918
6.....	54,631	4,553	2,277	2,102	1,051
7.....	61,550	5,130	2,565	2,368	1,184
8.....	68,469	5,706	2,853	2,634	1,317
For additional member add	6,919	577	289	267	134

How to apply: To get free or reduced price meals for your children you may submit a **Direct Certification letter received from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, OR carefully complete one application for your household** and return it to the designated office. If you now receive food stamps, Temporary Assistant to Needy Families (TANF) for any children, or participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the application must include the children's names, the household food stamp, TANF or FDPIR number and the signature of an adult household member. All children with the same case number may be listed on the same application. Separate applications are required for children with different case numbers. If you do not list a food stamp/TANF or FDPIR number for all the children for whom you are applying, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income of each household member, and how often it is received and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and that adult's social security number or the word "**none**" if the adult does not have a social security number. An application that is not complete cannot be approved. Contact your local Department of Social Services for your food stamp or TANF number or complete the income portion of application.

Reporting Changes: The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire school year. **You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive food stamps.**

Income Exclusions: The value of any childcare provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such childcare or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered income for the program.

Non-Discrimination: This explains what to do if you believe you have been treated unfairly. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202)-720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Meal Service to Children With Disabilities: Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a

disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. Major life activities are defined to include functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working. You must request the special meals from the school and provide the school with medical certification from a medical doctor. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical certification must contain.

Confidentiality: The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students' names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal State or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, *all* information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the national School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violations of the programs under the NSLS or CNA.

The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ruth Frost".

Ruth Frost
Principal