



2010-2011

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Dear Parents,

The AAFES School Meal Program provides USDA approved, healthy meals in the DoDDS schools worldwide. There have been significant changes to the menus for the USDA line since the adoption of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, initiated in October 2009. The US Congress established a new requirement that all school districts with federally funded school meal programs develop and implement wellness policies that address nutrition and physical activity by the start of the 2008-2009 school year. These changes continue into the coming school year, replacing many menu items with “healthier” alternatives and offering more entrée and side dish choices to all students grades 1 to 12. Fried foods and sugary drinks are not served in our cafeteria. Students pay for their meals using our Horizon Fast Lane register system, which requires that an account is set up at the BX Customer Service and funds are applied to the account. The child is then issued a personal pin number to use to pay for their meals.

In the school year of 2009-2010, we introduced a whole new menu concept for our meal service. Up to six entrée choices and two fruit and vegetable choices have been made available to all students grades 1 to 12 each and every day. Fruit and cold side dish choices are selected from a display case by the students themselves, as well as the salad entrée choice. Lunch menus can be viewed and downloaded from odin.aafes.com/nutrition/menus.htm, however it is important to remember that at Aviano we use the ELEMENTARY menu for all grades because we have all grades eating together and also because we are the only school to offer pasta with meat sauce each day to all students as a choice, therefore eliminating the extra high school option advertised. The online menu also may not reflect any local changes to the selections. Local menus are sent out with daily bulletins by the offices of the Middle/High and Elementary school.

The Aviano School Cafeteria offers two separate choices for lunch. We have the regular USDA reimbursable tray lunch and the a-la-carte serving line; otherwise known as the “Cool School Café.” The regular lunch is a pattern meal set forth and approved by an AAFES staff dietician following USDA guidelines for nutritional wholesomeness. This is the only meal that is covered under the free and reduced lunch program*. The a-la-carte lunch is simply a snack bar type serving line that sells a variety of food and snack items individually - all at full price.

Our Horizon Fast Lane register system allows meals to be purchased without your child having to keep track of cash. An account must be opened either at the BX customer service or at the cafeteria itself during operating hours. A personal pin number will be issued to your child that he or she can use to pay for meals purchased. Funds may be applied to the account either by payment at the BX (all methods of payment), at the cafeteria (cash and check) or by using the MealPayPlus online account management system. There are two accounts in our Fast Lane register system, **General** and **Meal**. Please note that General and meal are both accessible from the same pin number, it's the same as having a checking and savings account under one name. The **General account** allows your child to eat anything, anywhere in the cafeteria (USDA trays, breakfast items, and the a-la-carte line). The only limitation is parental choice of a daily spending limit. To keep things simple, the **General account** accepts all types of meal charges while The **Meal account** is used to purchase only the USDA tray lunch. The a-la-carte line is not covered by the free and reduced lunch programs, the USDA tray line is the only option for free and reduced lunch authorizations. Second trays and second helpings on the USDA line are also **not covered** by the meal account. If a child wishes to purchase an extra portion, they must ask for a “Lunch Plus” at the register. It costs \$1.00 and gives them an extra entrée, but there must be money in the general account to allow this purchase. A-la-carte items and extras are not available to Kindergarten students.

The Fast Lane system also allows parents to set purchasing limits for any account, and to alert cashiers of any allergy or special request for their child. Any meal substitution requests due to allergies must be supported by a letter from the doctor stating the medical reason and acceptable substitutions. These alerts must be set up at the cafeteria itself, where supporting documentation is kept on file.

Parents are responsible for controlling the balances of their child's account. If an account goes into the negative, a reminder slip is handed to the child by the cashier. Each week an e-mail is sent to notify of negative balances. The child may still eat a hot meal if the account is negative, we will never turn down a child requesting a hot lunch. This only applies to the USDA tray line, however. If an a-la-carte lunch is requested without the funds in the general account, the child is directed to charge a USDA lunch and cannot purchase the a-la-carte items. A great way to track the accounts is by registering with MealPayPlus.com, you will receive automatic notices when the account reaches the balance set by you.

MealPayPlus is a great new online service that allows you to track your child's account, make payments and to receive notifications of balances. Please note that there is a \$5.00 charge for applying funds by credit card online to accounts, but consider the advantages of not having to wait in line at the BX. When setting up your online account, please select "exchange" when asked to enter state, and you will need your child's student account number, available at either the BX after you set up the pin account with them, or at the cafeteria.

Visit MealpayPlus online at www.MealpayPlus.com to get started!

Reminder: Money left in an account when school closes in June for summer break is still available in September when we re-open. This also applies to negative accounts, a negative balance will carry over to the next school year, however, attempts will be made before closure to bring all accounts to a zero or positive balance using the sponsor's chain of command if accounts are not reconciled in a timely manner.

For students in Kindergarten:

Separate menus are published for these students, with a fixed menu item for the day. Kindergarten lunch counts are taken each day by the teacher, to be entered in the Fast Lane system by our staff at the main cafeteria. Cash cannot be accepted at the kindergarten building, the child must have an account open in the Fast Lane system.

*For information and applications for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program, please contact the School Liaison Officer at 632-5261. Applications are also available at the Elementary School office.

POC for the school meal program at Aviano is Gabriel Curtis or Romina Bellucci phone # 632-5600 or 0434-652597 for any questions or concerns.

Operation hours of the cafeteria are 0700-1245 Monday through Friday. Breakfast snacks and cappuccino bar is open from 0700-0830.

Lunch Prices:

Grades KN through 5: \$2.05

Grades 6 through 12: \$2.20

Lunch Plus: (extra entrée) \$1.00

Guest Lunch: \$5.00