

November 1, 2021

Dear Families:

The Middle Country CSD Food and Nutrition Department, in partnership with Whitsons Culinary Group, is asking for your patience and support as we navigate new challenges\*. As you may be aware, Nationwide shortages and delays have affected the availability of certain food items, leading to substitutions of menu items we've been able to offer regularly in the past. These supply issues are occurring throughout the country and are especially challenging for school systems due to the number of meals we serve and the nutrition standards we follow. The entire food service industry is currently faced with unprecedented shortages, massive delays or cancellations of deliveries, and departmental labor shortages.

This means that we may need to make quick substitutions to our menu(s) based on what we can acquire. We want to help limit the effects this has on our students, with particular consideration to individuals at higher risk due to food allergens or medical diagnoses. Menu updates are directly communicated as soon as identified to the school location and building nurse. In addition, menu changes are posted on the district FS webpage and updated in the FDMealPlanner.

Please know that our number one priority continues to be providing healthy, nutritious, and appetizing meals for your children. We love seeing them every day and appreciate your support and patience as we continue to offer meals at no charge for all students. The good news is that free breakfast and lunch will continue throughout the school year, so please support us while we face yet another challenge. Student participation helps our program stay strong, and we look forward to serving them every day.

Warmly,

Sharon Dyke  
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\*For more information on the food supply chain issue, please view the video links, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMFHRCzW3hg> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEwOa9Mx7WQ> produced by the School Nutrition Association.