



Mary of Lourdes School

205 3rd St. NW – 307 4th St. SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Jennifer Swenson, Principal

Middle School
(320) 632-6742
(320) 632-3556 Fax

Elementary School
(320) 632-5408
(320) 632-5409 Fax

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our school offers healthy meals each day. Starting school year 2023-2024, we are joining Minnesota's Free School Meals Program. All students can get one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each day at school. Extra milk and milk taken when a cold lunch is brought will be \$0.40 each.

Although no application is required to receive this free meal benefit, this year more than any other year it is critical for you to complete the enclosed Application for Educational Benefits following the instructions. The state and federal funding we receive through the public school district is allocated using a formula that is heavily influenced by the number of free and reduced lunch students enrolled in our school. **These funds pay for our school nurse, our school counselor, our title one support and textbooks/equipment.** A new application must be submitted each year. At public schools, your application also helps the school qualify for education funds and discounts.

Return your completed Application for Educational Benefits to *either Mary of Lourdes School offices* and **receive one volunteer credit.**

Who should complete and return the application? Everyone

I get WIC or Medical Assistance. Can my children get free school meals? Children in households participating in WIC or Medical Assistance may be eligible for free school meals. Please fill out an application.

Who should I include as household members? Include yourself and all other people living in the household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends).

May I apply if someone in my household is not a U.S. citizen? Yes. You or your children do not have to be U.S. citizens for your children to qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

What if my income is not always the same? List the amount that you normally get. If you normally get overtime, include it, but not if you get overtime only occasionally.

Will the information I give be checked? Yes, and we may also ask you to send written proof.

How will the information be kept? Information you provide on the form, and your child's approval for school meal benefits, will be protected as private data. For more information see the back page of the Application for Educational Benefits.

If I don't qualify now, may I apply later? Yes. Please complete an application at any time if your income goes down, your household size goes up, or you start receiving SNAP, MFIP or FDPIR benefits.

If you have other questions or need help, call Principal, Jennifer Swenson at 320-632-6742 (MS) or 320-632-5408 (ES).

Sincerely,

Principal Jennifer Swenson