

Amory School District Parents/Guardians,

My name is Emmie McDaniel and I am the new *Food Services Director* for the Amory School District as of January 1, 2024. Mr. Steve Stockton retired after working with Amory for 29 years. He was an amazing asset to our Food Services program. Mr. Stockton along with the café managers and staff established a wonderful program and it is my vision to help our program develop & grow into the future.

School Food Service is similar to a small business. In order to maintain a positive balance, we must bring in funds to offset daily costs (food expenses, labor, maintenance of equipment, etc.). The Food Services department is required to purchase certain foods and provide meals set within USDA guidelines. Each weekly menu must be analyzed to ensure that standards are met regarding nutrients set forth by the USDA. We strive to offer a variety of foods that meet sodium restrictions but also foods that students will enjoy. The cafe managers and staff work extremely hard at each school to achieve this goal.

As you are aware, the economy has suffered over the last years. We have all noticed the price of groceries have drastically increased. These increases have affected the school food service program as well. With rising food costs, we are now forced to take measures to offset this increase. The meal prices offered to paid students & teachers were set several years ago and have not been increased. Unfortunately, the time has come where an increase must occur. These minimal increases will take effect in August of 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year.

EVERY student has the opportunity to apply for Free/Reduced meals (Reduced rates are mandated by the USDA. Breakfast is \$.30 and lunch is \$.40). This program was designed to help parents/guardians and I strongly encourage each household to fill out an application on/after July 1, 2024. Applications will be available online July 1st and hard copies may also be picked up at the schools during registration or at the central office any time after this date. Legally, we cannot accept any applications for the 24-25 school year until July 1st. **Please remember, parents must fill out a new application each school year.**

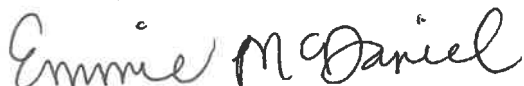
Other important information:

*My School Bucks (www.myschoolbucks.com) is an easy way to add funds to your child's meal account online. It is vitally important to keep a positive balance in your child's account. Another alternative is to send a check with your child to school.

*www.amorypanthercafe.com - access to monthly menus and the free/reduced application.

If I can be of assistance, please email emcdaniel@amoryschools.com or call the office 662-256-3576.

Sincerely,



Emmie McDaniel