

Food Service Updates at Sherrard District Schools  
September 17, 2021

**Jr-Sr High School:**

Currently, the district has made the choice to continue to try to keep the students from being in close contact indoors during the lunch periods when a large number of students eat during three lunch periods. In order to do this, the JH students eat in four different locations throughout the building. Seventh grade students eat in the All Purpose Room or Gym 1 and eighth grade students are allowed to eat outside at picnic tables between the school and the athletic field on good weather days or in the commons. Because of the distance and characteristics of these locations it is not possible at this time to provide meals on trays since those would have to be returned to the cafeteria area following the end of the meal. There are three lunch periods for all Jr-Sr High students in a two hour period. The senior high students also eat in four locations. Those locations are the All Purpose Room, Commons, Auditorium and outside at the picnic tables. There are over 650 students between grades 7 through 12. The plan at the beginning of the school year was to review the situation and make changes back to tray meals when possible. That decision has not been made and won't be until the administrative staff discuss the situation with Covid numbers.

Our posted menu always says that it is "subject to change". I would like to assure you that all meals are served following the guidelines that are mandated by the Child Nutrition Department. There is also the issue that our suppliers are unable to meet many of the items we have ordered this year due to shortages beyond their control. When the supply truck arrived today, September 16, 2021, we were missing items we ordered to serve for Friday's lunch this week and Monday's lunch next week. Items listed on the menu for those dates will need to be substituted with items we already have on hand. The supply company requested at the beginning of August that we order at least three weeks in advance but even that has not solved the issue. This is not just a problem at Sherrard.

All of the food service staff at Sherrard work very hard and should be commended for providing the best meal possible during unprecedented challenges. There will be updated information posted on the district website when needed in regard to the ongoing issues we are trying to solve.

**K-6 Buildings:**

Winola, Sherrard Elementary and Matherville Intermediate will continue to serve tray meals, however, the same situation applies as far as shortages and menus may change on a day-to-day basis depending on delivery shortages.