

Welcome Letter to Students and Parents/Guardians

School Year 2026-2027

Greetings,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Rhea County School system community from your School Nutritional Service Department. We operate 7 schools in our district, 4 Elementary K-5 schools, 2 Middle Schools 6-8, 1 High School 9-12.

Our Services includes:

- Daily breakfast at all schools, beginning 15-30 minutes before the first bell. At our high school we also provide a second chance breakfast after the 1st bell to help promote student achievement and academic success.
- Daily lunch at all schools. We will be partnering with a local pizza company for our pizza program this year, High School will be 3x a week and K-8 will be 1 time a month with the local pizza company. Our High School we be having a salad/veggie bar. K-8 will be having a choice of hot entrée or a grab n go meal.

Our mission is to alleviate childhood hunger within our community and promote a nutritionally balanced diet in a warm and friendly environment.

Each school kitchen has a team of highly trained staff, with food safety and customer services as the highest priority. These team members receive, cook food, cashier, serve meals and keep the kitchen clean. We also are very sensitive to the various nutritional needs of our students. If your child has a serve allergy or special diet prescribed by a licensed medical authority contact the office of School Nutrition at 775-7812.

Purchasing a reimbursable meal is easy:

- Breakfast meals consist of a choice of Grain, Grain or Meat, Fruit and/or Juice, Milk. The student must select 3 of the 4 items and one item must be ½ cup of fruit or juice.
- Lunch meals consist of a choice of Meat/Meat Alternate, Vegetable, Fruit or Juice, Grain, Milk. The student must select 3 of the 5 items and one must be ½ cup of fruit or vegetable.
- Every student is issued a pin number and required to enter it when he/she receives a meal or purchase a snack.

The student also has the opportunity to purchase a variety of snacks and beverages that comply with the “Smart Snack Sold in Schools” regulations. Students have the option to pay for their snacks as they come through the serving line or by paying in advance by depositing money into a general account that the parents have an option to set up at <https://lingconnect.com> This makes it to where no money will be collected in the homeroom, students having to keep up with cash on a daily basis. All money in students account at the end of the school year will automatically roll over to the next year unless parent request a refund. Graduates have the same option. All refund requests must be made by May 6, 2027.

The Rhea County School system is concerned about the health and wellness of our students. Please review the complete Rhea County Wellness Policy, Procedures, and Assessment on the web at www.rheacounty.org.

For menus and other information, please visit the School Nutrition page on the district web site at www.rheacounty.org or register with <https://lingconnect.com> to view menus.

We are excited to be able to feed your child for free this year under the CEP (community eligibility provision) please encourage them to come and get a hot healthy meal in their cafeteria even if they pack a lunch, we can still give them 3 of the 5 items required for this free program.

We look forward to serving you this school year!

Sincerely,



Debbie Blackmon

Rhea County School Nutrition Supervisor

423-775-7812

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To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632- 9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or 2. Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or 3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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