

Tawas Area Schools Food Service Department  
255 M- 55  
Tawas, MI. 48763

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are excited to announce our plans to start a share table in the cafeteria starting October 17, 2022!

At the share table, students will be able to drop off unwanted food and beverage items from their meals. Then we will utilize the unwanted food for our after school programs.

**Why are we starting a share table?**

First and foremost, our goal is to provide nutritious food to students. Student appetites can vary from day to day because they are growing, active in sports, or for other reasons.

We are very excited to help students get the nutrition they need at no additional cost. Plus, we will be reducing the food that will go to the landfill!

Our cafeteria staff will be taking strict measures to ensure only unopened and/or uneaten foods are placed on the share table. All operating procedures of the share table have been approved by the local health department.

Please review our frequently asked questions. If you have another question or concern that is not addressed here, please reach out to us at [jsancrant@tawas.net](mailto:jsancrant@tawas.net) or call 989-984-2114.

Thank you for your support in making our share table a success!

Sincerely,

Jan Sancrant

Tawas Food Service Director

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **How will students learn how to use the share table?**

- We will inform the students how to use the share table.
- Signs will be posted at the share table to show acceptable and unacceptable items.

### **My child has a food allergy or intolerance. How will they be protected?**

We ask parents/guardians of students with dietary limitations to help us maintain safety by reminding your child about what they can and cannot eat. You may also wish to instruct your child(ren) not to use the share table. No food from home or outside the lunchroom will be permitted on the share table. Due to staffing limitations, we may not be able to always monitor the share table.

To promote safety in the cafeteria, we will:

- Have a sign with a reminder about food allergies
- Place top 8 allergen-free (milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, and soy) items in a designated place

### **Will my child(ren) be able to put food from their lunch on the share table?**

No, foods and drinks from home will not be allowed on the share table.

### **What foods are allowed on the share table?**

There are strict rules about what can be placed on the share table.

#### **Allowed:**

- Whole fruits with inedible peel (e.g. bananas, oranges)
- Whole fruits with edible skin/peel (e.g., apples)
- Packaged non-perishable items (e.g., breakfast bars, cereal)
- Packaged cold foods (e.g., milk, yogurt, cheese stick, juice, apple slices)
- Packaged hot foods (e.g., breakfast sandwich, pancake bites)

#### **Not allowed:**

- Any foods or drinks from home
- Opened foods/drinks
- Foods/drinks served directly on a tray (e.g., burger, orange slices)
- Foods/drinks served without a top (e.g., side salad served in a bowl)
- Foods/drinks with a top or cap that can be replaced (e.g., yogurt parfait, bottle of milk or juice, foods in carryout containers)