

CNP Update 10/20/21

Here's an update on the situation with food, supply, and truck driver shortages. With the nationwide shortage of certain food items, our CNP has partnered with additional vendors to increase food availability. Staff may not always be able to exactly follow the menu, but there is adequate food to provide a free breakfast and lunch to any student who wants one. Food choices have had to be reduced, but CNP is offering as much variety as the market will allow. Last minute menu changes will continue to occur, due mostly to delays in deliveries. CNP managers will send email notifications when that will occur. Our CNP staff willingly agreed to receive food and supply orders after hours and on Saturdays to make sure we get food and supplies.

Staffing shortages in our school cafeterias have been significant. Most are from employee sickness or quarantine, but it has also been difficult finding people to fill vacant positions. CNP leadership is implementing various strategies to make sure each kitchen has enough. Menus may change at times to cope with a reduced staff.

New USDA regulations no longer allow second meals. This means only one breakfast and one lunch per student each day. Due to the shortage in food and labor, MCS is unable to sell extra entrees, beverages, and snacks. Students and staff, however, MAY choose extra fruits and vegetables (this only applies to those who receive a school meal, and not individuals who bring their food from home). Beverage and snack choices are also limited. The USDA requires that milk be offered with every meal. Cups of water from the ice dispensers are provided at no charge where necessary. Fruit juice may be substituted for milk on request for students who are allergic to milk. Special diet prescriptions are honored with a doctor's prescription. Lastly, I want to recognize the heroic actions of the entire CNP staff. The State of Alabama deemed them "essential" from the beginning of the pandemic. They have been and continue to work tirelessly to ensure that every student who wants a meal gets one. I was pleased to see a local news story recognizing our outstanding [Madison City CNP Staff](#).