



## Hampstead School District

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The 2020-21 school year is upon us and Fresh Picks Café is pleased to once again manage your school's Food Service Program. Fresh Picks Café (a Cafe Services company) is a locally owned and operated company dedicated to serving delicious, wholesome, quality meals that meet the latest nutritional guidelines.

1.) **COVID-19 Response:** Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Fresh Picks Café has been proud to support the communities we serve. We have safely served millions of meals to K-12 students engaged in remote learning since the beginning of the crisis and are prepared to continue to combat food insecurity and provide students with good nutrition in the new school year.

All of our onsite staff undergo a thorough screening process and temperature check each day and have access to an enhanced leave policy to ensure they are protected if they need to be excluded from work. All employees have been provided with the PPE they need to perform their jobs safely; food production areas have been reconfigured to allow for greater social distancing and stringent sanitizing procedures are in place. Training has been provided so all employees understand the steps they need to take to keep themselves and our customers healthy & safe.

On our service lines, the use self-service stations (salad bars; pizzerias; condiments; etc.) and complex service stations (made to order deli; ramen bars; etc.) have been suspended to allow for greater social distancing. To keep in line with our food philosophy, these stations have been changed to provide freshly made options packaged for grab n' go rather than prepacked convenience foods (to the greatest extent possible). Signage to promote social distancing has been added and points of customer contact on the service line have been modified to either allow for proper social distancing or installation of protective barriers. We have implemented a robust schedule of sanitizing all customer contact surfaces.

2.) **Menus & Style of Service:** Menus can be found online through the school district website. These menus have been created to support the type of learning environments adopted by each school:

Meals are available to all students during remote learning. Students will be able to obtain meals at no charge. Meals can be picked up on Monday and Wednesday from 11am to 12:30pm at the Hampstead Middle School. A sign-up form can be obtained online through the school district website.

3.) **AREA ELIGIBILITY:** Our district participates in the USDA's Area Eligibility waiver. Under this waiver, all children under 18 are able to receive a breakfast and a lunch every day at no charge. This applies whether students are engaged in remote learning or attending classes in school.

4.) **Student Allergy / Special Needs Identification:** If your student has a medically documented food allergy or special need when it comes to food, your food service director will work closely with the school nurse and other personnel to ensure that your child's specific needs are met. Please contact your Food Service Director with details.

5.) **Local Purchasing & Green Initiatives:** Fresh Picks Café has a robust local purchasing policy, and buys from local farms and food producers as much as possible. We are a strong supporter of the Farm to School initiative as well as a founding member of Food Connects, a non-profit organization based in Brattleboro, VT with the mission of connecting local farmers to local restaurants and institutions. We are also active in recycling and composting efforts. We are always looking to build new relationships with local farmers and environmentally conscious groups – please feel free to contact your food service director.

More can be learned about Fresh Picks Café by visiting our website <http://www.freshpickscafe.com> , on our Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/FreshPicksCafe> or by following us on Twitter @FreshPicksCafe.

### **Hampstead School District Food Service Director:**

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**Pricing:** All students are entitled to a breakfast and a lunch at no charge

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

