



*Chartwells School Dining Services*  
A Member of the Compass Group  
Ridgefield Public Schools  
70 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

### ***The Chartwells Promise:***

Chartwells is a diverse family of dedicated food and nutrition specialists serving the academic community. Chartwells brings fresh ideas and innovative concepts to school dining services. Nourishing students is not only our business; it's our commitment to the communities in which we serve. Feeding safe and healthy meals to children has always been our number one priority. Our programs are: based on strong nutrition guidelines and principles while also focused on culinary methods that result in healthy foods that are appealing to children. We emphasize the use of locally and seasonally grown fruits and vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy and lean meats.

Please contact us with any comments or suggestions;

Janet Schmitz, Director of Dining Services at 203-431-2800 ext. 2035

Aliza Stern, Resident Dietitian at 203-438-3785 ext. 1029

### ***About School Lunch:***

The Ridgefield Public Schools participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

This program is governed by federal guidelines set by the USDA and monitored by the Child Nutrition Office of the State Board of Education. Our resident dietitian will oversee meal-planning efforts in the district to assure meals meet the standards established by the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Healthy School Meal Initiative standards. Planned lunch menus will supply at least one-third of the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) for calories, protein, Vitamins A and C, calcium, and iron and will supply no more than 30% calories from fat and no more than 10% calories from saturated fat (averaged over one week). To assure compliance, menus are nutritionally analyzed on a periodic basis. The meal package is \$2.45 at the elementary schools. The East Ridge Middle School and Scotts Ridge Middle School meal package is \$2.95.

Ridgefield Public Schools follow the traditional food based menu planning and an offer versus serve provision. This allows for five components of a meal to be offered (meat/meat alternate, grain/breads, vegetable/fruits(2) and fluid milk) but the student may select at least three and up to five components for a full meal. Offer vs. serve achieves two major goals; reduces food waste in school nutrition programs and permits the students to select only the foods they will consume.

Ridgefield High School does not participate in the NSLP. We offer a larger selection of choices for students to create their meals. The meal price will vary depending on the menu choices.

We strive to help educate students about good nutrition with special promotions and monthly healthy messages on the menus and in the cafeterias.

### ***Point-of-Sale Debit System and Cash Purchases:***

The Ridgefield Public Schools uses Café Enterprise, a computerized point-of-sale program where all district students have an account set up in the system for purchasing items from the school cafeterias. Each student has a personal identification number (PIN) which will access their individual account. The student's enter their PIN at the registers to access their account with the school picture appearing for identification and security purposes. With less cash to handle, the lines move faster allowing students more time to eat their lunch. Students may always make purchases with cash. Café Enterprise is a debit system (not a credit account). Any amount of money may be deposited into the students account either by cash or checks sent into the school cafeteria. Checks may also be mailed to the food service office. Checks should be made out to; Ridgefield School Lunch. All funds for the food service program are deposited into a BOE account. Should you wish to pay electronically with a credit card, you may visit [www.CafePrePay.com](http://www.CafePrePay.com) and follow the directions. Although there is a small fee of the total purchase, you may appreciate this additional convenience. Additional information is available on the web site. At mealtimes, the student's account is charged as they purchase lunch or a la carte items.

### ***Student School Lunch Account Management: procedures & accounting***

Students who do not have funds on their account or money to purchase lunch will be allowed to charge regular lunch meals on their account. A notice will be periodically sent home with the elementary students of these charges. They will be required to pay back the balance for any unfunded meals. Our accounting system does not permit charging of a la carte items. Students at the middle schools and high school will be reminded of their balance by the cashiers in the cafeterias. Parents can also monitor their students account by using the CafePrePay system, contacting the food service office or contacting your cafeteria manager to check their child's account balances. The best time to call is between 9:00am and 10:30am or between 1:00pm and 2:00pm.

### ***Year-End Account Balances on POS System:***

All debit account balances (positive or negative) on the Café Enterprise system will be transferred to the next school year. This applies to all grade levels.

High school seniors and students leaving the Ridgefield Public Schools system can get a refund of monies left in their accounts. The parent must submit a written request form with the food service office for processing.

### ***Chartwells is committed to the HealthierUS Schools Challenge –Status update***

Chartwells is committed to the *HealthierUS* Schools Challenge

Chartwells encourages over all good nutrition for all our customers. Our on site management team with the support of Chartwells' registered dietitians provide the tools and technical assistance needed for our elementary school menus to meet the strict *HealthierUS* Schools Challenge nutritional guidelines.