



Global Village Academy

5720 State Rd. Parma, OH 44134

Phone: (216) 767-5956 ♦ Fax: (216) 767-5653

globalvillageoh@gmail.com ♦ www.globalvillageacademy.net

Global Village Academy Unpaid Meal Policy

Global Village Academy (GVA) recognizes the important link between proper nutrition and academic success. Our goal is to provide students with healthy meals each day; however, unpaid charges place a large financial burden on our Food Service Department. The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent district procedure for charging meals when students do not have money to pay, preventing meal charges, and ensuring eligible children are certified for free and reduced-price school meals.

CHARGING MEALS

Because hunger is an impediment to learning, no child shall be denied a school meal because of an inability to pay. Children will be served a meal that meets the U.S. Department of Agriculture nutrition standards for school meals.

- Students who qualify for free meals will receive one breakfast and one lunch per day. Students who qualify for reduced priced meals will receive one reduced priced breakfast and one reduced priced lunch per day.
 - Any additional breakfast or lunch per day, or any à la carte items, will be charged at the districts standard rate and families will be responsible for paying in full.
- GVA will allow students to charge reimbursable meals and à la carte items up to **\$15.00**. Once a child has reached the charge limit, he/she will no longer be permitted to purchase à la carte items, but will be offered an alternative reimbursable meal that will be placed on the child's account.
- Only students who have been approved under the eligibility guidelines of the National School Lunch/Breakfast Program are entitled to a free or reduced-price meal. All non-eligible students will be charged for their meal.
- **If you do not wish for your child to have the option of charging meals or à la carte items, then you must contact Alexandra Holowatyj at 216-767-5956 or email alexandra.holowatyj@gva.school.**

Hand stamps, stickers, or any other means of overt identification of children with unpaid meal debt in the cafeteria or the classroom are prohibited. Additionally, children with unpaid meal debt shall not be required to work off their debt, including, but not limited to, wiping down tables or cleaning the cafeteria.

PREVENTING MEAL CHARGES

Parents/guardians are encouraged to monitor their child's meal balance online and keep an adequate amount of funds in their child's account to pay for their meals.

- Please visit www.myschoolbucks.com to create a free account
 - Check your child's cafeteria balance and purchases
 - Receive low balance alerts
 - Set up automatic payments
 - Pre-pay for meals/food
- Prepayment are required. Payment may be made online, or at the school with a check or money order made payable to Global Village Academy.
- All households will be provided with school meal applications at the start of the school year
 - Applications will be provided in the primary language of the parent or guardian and GVA staff will provide assistance completing an application for any household that requests assistance;
- GVA will promptly utilize data provided by the state or other school district officials to certify eligible children without an application
- Any child for which GVA is not able to obtain a completed school meal application, but becomes aware of their eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals shall be certified based on an application submitted by the appropriate school official, as permitted by USDA guidance.



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To ensure that households are aware of negative account balances and the potential to accrue meal debt, the school nutrition department will:

- Send out weekly negative balance notices;
- Notify and work with principals, school counselors, and/or teachers to understand the student and parent's situation and if a school meal application is needed;
- Call parents to notify them of a child's negative balances; and use automated email alerts to notify parents of negative balances.

COLLECTING UNPAID MEAL DEBT

Communication regarding unpaid meal debt shall be directed at parents or guardians. GVA will send children home with a letter in an envelope distributed discreetly through normal school communication channels with families.

Prior to contacting households regarding unpaid meal debt, GVA shall ensure that the student is not participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, or other federal programs, which would confer categorical eligibility for free school meals, or is not homeless, migrant, or in foster care, and would allow them to be certified without an application.

Any household with a negative school lunch account balance shall be contacted immediately by school nutrition staff by email, phone, or letter home to provide information on how to apply for free or reduced-price school meals or to add funds to the school nutrition account. For households that cannot afford to pay their school meal charges, the school district will work with them to establish a payment plan.

CARRY-OVER UNPAID MEAL DEBT:

- All positive balances at the end of the school year will carry over to the next school year.
- Negative balances must be reconciled before the end of the school year. Notices will continue until the debt has been paid. Student records, grades, transcripts, etc., will not be sent until all obligations are paid in full.
- Graduating student must clear all debt prior to graduation. A student may not graduate unless all obligations are paid in full.
- Graduating students will have three options regarding positive balances:
 - They may choose to receive a refund if their balance is \$10.00 or above
 - They may choose to transfer the balance of their account to a sibling attending GVA
 - They may donate the balance for the benefit of another student