

NEWSNOTE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

Dear SME Family,

Paul writes of God being the source of our strength through all things. Regardless of circumstance, trial, or tribulation, with God’s strength, we can persevere. In Ephesians 3, Paul writes, “so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith - that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with the fullness of God.” Throughout this school year, this has been a source of comfort and reassurance for us in all that we do here at St. Mary’s Elementary School.

Thank you for helping to make the first two trimesters of our year exciting, productive, and memorable! Various events have brought us together in celebration, recognition, and prayer. Together, we have grown academically, athletically, creatively, and spiritually. So much of what we are able to do as a school simply would not be possible without the partnership and support of our parents, grandparents, and other trusted adults. Thank you all, for all you do, as it enables SME to continue to grow and evolve in so many ways.

With Easter Recess just over two weeks away, I want to take this opportunity to strongly encourage you to spend some time over the next couple of weeks to complete and submit the registration paperwork for the 2025-2026 school year. To be entirely transparent - our building is limited in the number of classrooms we have. As a result, the number of classes we will be able to split into two sections next year is also limited. We have begun touring families and hosting shadows for students who are not currently registered at SME but would like to join our school next year.

In order to secure your place @ SME for the 2025-2026 academic year, please submit your completed registration paperwork. This is especially important if your son’s or daughter’s current class is currently split into two sections or may be split into two sections next year. (Students currently in grades PK3, PK4, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7)

Additionally, our Summer Care program has begun accepting registrations. Our Summer Care team contacts those who were a part of the program last summer and has also reached out to families that expressed interest in the program at our Open House. Space is very limited and we have reached capacity the past few years. If you are looking for childcare for the summer, I encourage you to consider reaching out to [summercare@smeschool.com](mailto:summercare@smeschool.com) for additional information or with questions.

Thank you for all you continue to do for St. Mary’s. As we work together, aware that God has done and will continue to do immeasurable good in our lives, I am beyond confident that we will continue to shape SME into the best version of itself each and every day, serving as a Tier 3 model school for the entire Diocese of Buffalo.

Yours in Christ,  
  
Mr. Olejniczak



- **Fri. 4/4** - Christian Witness Mass @ 8:30am
- **Tues. 4/8** - NYS ELA Testing
- **Wed. 4/9** - NYS ELA Testing
- **Mon. 4/14 - 4/21:** Easter Recess NO SCHOOL
- **Thurs. 5/1** - ART Show, Battle of the Books & Book Fair, 6pm-8pm
- **Fri. 5/2** - Christian Witness Mass, 8:30am
- **Tues. 5/6** - NYS Science Testing
- **Fri. 5/9** - May Crown-ing Mass, 8:30am & Penny Fair
- **Tues. 5/13** - NYS Math Testing
- **Wed 5/14** - NYS Math Testing
- **Fri. 5/16** - Hope Rib-bon Mass, 8:30am
- **Mon. 5/19** - SREAM/ EXCEL Walk-a-Thon
- **Fri. 5/23** - No School
- **Mon. 5/26** - No School

NURSE’S MESSAGE

Attention 5th and 6th grade parents.

Coming home this week is a notice of vaccinations required for your students that will be needed by the first day of school for the 25-26 school year. Students who will be entering 6th grade will need a Tdap vaccine and those entering 7th grade will need a meningitis vaccine. Please note; you will only receive notice if your child has not had the required vaccination at this time, or if there isn't one on file in the HO.

For students who will not be 11 years old at the start of the school year, I have written the date your student will need the vaccination on the top of the sheet. I like to send out these notices early as I understand many students have physicals in the spring and summer and want to make you aware of the requirements prior to appointments. Thank you all for your continued support and understanding of the NYS immunization requirements.



REGISTRATION/TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS



A flyer with area transportation department links has been attached to this NewsNote!  
All transportation requests should be submitted to your districts transportation department directly and are **due 4/1!**

In addition, a gentle reminder about the registration applications that are still pending. As we approach the deadline, we kindly ask that you submit your applications as soon as possible to ensure that that your child’s enrollment is secured.

HSA

Upcoming HSA Meeting

Interested in learning more about HSA and the events we have planned for this spring? Join us for a meeting on Wednesday April 2nd from 5:30-6:30pm in the Gathering Room (the conference room near the Parish Center). We will be discussing the Book Fair, Teacher Appreciation Week, Penny Fair, and more!

Spring HSA Events - Save the Dates!

Spring Book Fair: 5/1 & 5/2  
HSA Meeting: 5/7  
Penny Fair: 5/9  
Mega Raffle: 6/6  
School Picnic: 6/13

SME Parent Wear

Show your SME pride with SME Parent t-shirts. Each T-shirt is \$10. Adult sizes small through 2XL available. Sizes are limited to available inventory. Order using the following link: <https://sme-parent-wear.cheddarup.com>

SME Spirit Wear

Need SME Spirit Wear? We've got you covered! Each t-shirt is \$15, youth and adult sizes are available. Scan the QR code to order.



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ST. MARY'S  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2 St. Mary's Hill  
Lancaster, NY 14086

Phone: 716-683-2112  
Fax: 716-683-2134  
www.smeschool.com



UPON THIS HILL,  
WE DO GOD'S WILL



SPIRIT WEAR

Please use the link below to complete your purchase:

<https://sme-spirit-wear.cheddarup.com>

Once the payment is received, I will send the shirts home with your student or contact you to arrange pick up later this week/early next week.

NED'S MINDSET MISSION



UNIFORM ORDERS

Uniforms will be available for ordering on a monthly basis! All orders placed within the month-long period will be processed by All-Stars.

Please click the link below to place your order :)

<https://all-stars.printavo.com/merch/stmary-smonthly>



MEGA RAFFLE

What would you do with \$35,000??

Buy your Mega ticket for your chance to find out!

**When:** June 6, 2025 at 7:00PM

**Where:** St. Mary's High School

The top prize is \$35,000 with 13 other prizes to win.

**Cost:** \$100.00 a ticket which includes two guests.

Purchase tickets at the link below!

<https://mega-raffle-2025.cheddarup.com>



REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be coming home to-day, they will also be available through eSchool.

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP REMINDERS

To ensure the safety and well-being of all students, we kindly ask that parents remain in the foyer during late drop-offs and early pickups. A member of our school staff will be there to assist you and escort your child to and from the designated areas.

For our Pre-K students, please remember to use either Door 5 (Pre-K 4) or Door 6 (Pre-K 3) for drop-off and pick-up. Please let your child's teacher know if you will be late and which door you will be dropping off/picking up at so that they or another staff member can bring the student to their classroom.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter, as it helps us maintain a secure environment for our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

NO AFTER SCHOOL

Due to staffing shortages and our Spring Open House, there will be no after school care available on **Thursday May 1st** and **Friday May 2nd**.

We apologize for any inconvenience.



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

We are bringing back the Battle of the Books event that the school used to hold yearly! BATTLE OF THE BOOKS is a game show-like competition to test student teams' knowledge of two selected books by answering questions. Not all students are required to participate. There are three Battle of the Books divisions - grades 2/3, grades 4/5 and grades 6-8. Teams can have one to five members. The team's members can be from different grades within the division. The team members can each read both books or one reads one while the other reads the other book. Teams should be creative with names, T-shirts, posters etc...

Here are the books per grade division

- Grades 2/3 will read "Magic Treehouse: Buffalo Before Breakfast" by Mary Pope Osborne & "How to eat Fried Worms" by Thomas Rockwell
- Grades 4/5 will read "The BFG" by Roald Dahl & "Mr. Popper's Penguins" by Florence and Richard Atwater
- Grades 6-8 will read "Holes" by Louis Sachar & "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" by John Boyne

This event will take place in the evening at our Spring Open House on **May 1st** with our Art Show and Book Fair.



GARDEN CLUB

Starting **April 2nd - May 21**

K-2 Wednesdays 2:20pm-3:15pm

3-8 Fridays 2:20pm-3:15pm

This club is for K-8 students only, Pre-K siblings will not be allowed to attend. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Sign up using the link below

<https://forms.gle/EDzjVdDdAfAUGsGNA>



RAISE RIGHT

Updated Office Hours:




**Monday 12p-2:15p**  
**Tuesday 9a-12p**  
**Wednesday 12p-2:15p**

All online and school orders will be checked on Fridays and go home on Monday if inventory allows.

If you have any questions, please email [raiserright@smeschool.com](mailto:raiserright@smeschool.com).

Our team is here for you!



	<div></div> <div><h2>Notes From the Nurse</h2><p>March 2025</p><p><b>Dara Sirianni RN, BSN</b></p></div>
<p><b>Spring Sports</b></p>	<p>Students who wish to participate in school sports <b>MUST HAVE</b> a valid NYS Physical on file in the Health Office. Please hand these in ASAP to avoid delays in your child participating in practices/games.</p>
<p><b>Always Changing and Growing-Up</b></p> 	<p>All students in the 5th Grade class will have an opportunity to watch the Always Changing and Growing-Up Puberty videos in class this month. Information and permission slips will be sent out soon.</p> <p>This important information provides students in this age range with the appropriate tools and resources to navigate the changes that will or already have begun within their bodies. As well as give them the opportunity to ask questions they may have or that can arise from watching the videos.</p> <p>Parents may view the videos online prior to the class. Feel free to contact me via email if you would like the link.</p>
<p><b>Important Immunization Information</b></p>	<p>All Students entering 6th grade in September 2025 must have a Tdap vaccine. This vaccine must be received prior to the start of the school year or on your child's 11th birthday.</p> <p>All students entering 7th grade in September 2025 must have one dose of the Meningococcal vaccine prior to the start of the school year.</p> <p>I like to send out this information early to accomodate for spring/summer physicals. If your child(children) are in need of either of these vaccines an informational flyer will be sent home in April.</p> <p>You can always email or call the Health Office if you have any questions regarding this information.</p>
<p><b>Health Office Information</b></p>	<div><p>Office Hours: School Days 9:30-1pm</p><p>Phone: (716) 683-2112 ext 128</p><p>Fax: (716) 683-2134</p><p>email: nurse@smeschool.com</p></div> <div></div>



# *Welcome back* GARDEN CLUB

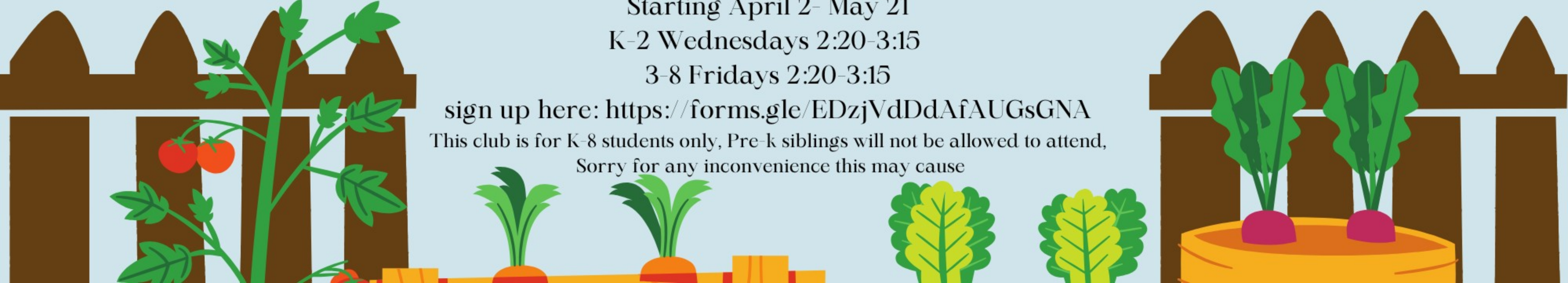
Starting April 2- May 21

K-2 Wednesdays 2:20-3:15

3-8 Fridays 2:20-3:15

sign up here: <https://forms.gle/EDzjVdDdAfAUGsGNA>

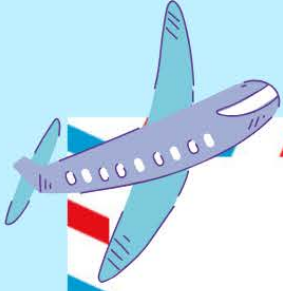
This club is for K-8 students only, Pre-k siblings will not be allowed to attend,  
Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause





St. Mary's of the Assumption presents:

Let's take a trip  
**Around the World**  
*For Senior Prom*



**Sunday, March 30, 2025**

**2 PM – 4 PM**

**in the Parish Center at St Mary's  
Elementary School**

**(2 St Marys Hill, Lancaster, NY 14086)**

Seniors, singles, couples, join us for a trip around the world. We will have refreshments, music and dancing. Attire is semi-formal or casual.

Grandchildren welcome. Optional, bring your favorite finger food or dessert from your nationality!

P.S. RSVP at the Rectory  
(716) 683-6445







ST. MARY  
OF THE  
ASSUMPTION

# 175th Anniversary

Dinner & Dancing with  
Music by "The RJ's"

April 25, 2025

6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Joseph's Country Manor and Grove

275 Columbia Ave. Depew, NY

Donation \$75.00 per person

Includes Beer, Wine, Soda-Cash Bar available



Order  
Online

Thank you for your Generous Support!

Please return the portion below with payment to purchase your ticket (s). Thank you!

Total # of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Please select dinner choice for each ticket:

Filet Mignon \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Piccata \_\_\_\_\_ Mixed Vegetables \_\_\_\_\_

How you would like to receive your tickets?

Rectory Pick Up \_\_\_\_\_ Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

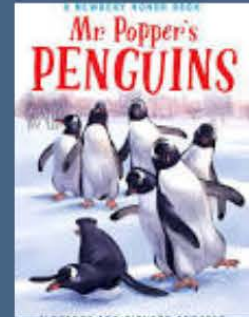
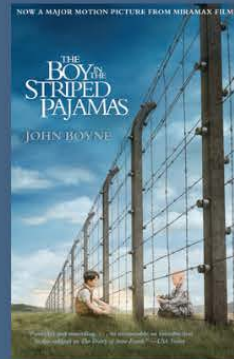
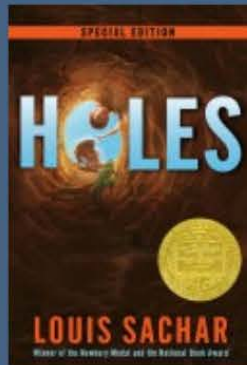
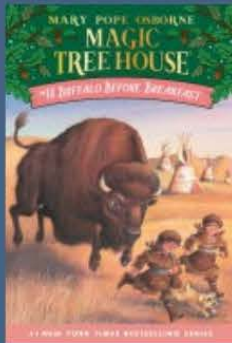
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Drop off or mail to St. Mary of the Assumption | St. Mary's Hill Lancaster, NY 14086





# BATTLE OF THE BOOKS



IF YOU THINK  
YOU HAVE  
WHAT IT  
TAKES TO BE  
2025 BOOK  
CHAMPION,  
SIGN UP  
OUTSIDE THE  
SCHOOL  
LIBRARY BY  
MARCH 14TH

2  
0  
2  
5

OUR EVENT  
WILL TAKE  
PLACE MAY 1ST  
AT THE ART  
SHOW



# 2025 X-STREAM GAMES & EXPO

Showcase your skills & talents through  
**Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art, & Math!**

**March 29**  
**10am - 3 p.m.**  
St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute

- ★ **YOU CAN...** ★
- Enter one of this year's Games:
    - Kitchen Chem, Arcade Academy, The Power of Art, Shark Tank, or CSI/Forensics
  - Bring a Robotics team
  - Participate in the Science Scrimmage
  - Join the Public Speaking Competition
  - Bring an entry for the Science Fair
  - Bring a display for the Exhibition

★ **EVENT INFO** ★

- Open to all students in grades preK-8 (& their families!)
- Not participating? Come explore the expo, watch the games, & create in the Makerspace.
- Free to attend!
- Wear your uniform & show your Catholic School pride!
- Concession available for purchase.

**Ready to  
join the games?!**

Registration closes Friday 2/28, so don't delay!

**Questions?**

Check the info on our website, or email  
[stream@wnycatholicschools.org](mailto:stream@wnycatholicschools.org)

Games Details  
& Registration







# BISON

CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Giving Parents a Choice • Giving Children a Chance

The **BISON Children's Scholarship Fund** is a private scholarship fund providing tuition assistance for low-income families throughout the 8 counties of Western New York who want to enroll their children in private K-12 schools.

## BISON K-8 Scholarship Quick Facts:

- Average K-8 scholarship in 2024 of \$1,725
- The maximum award is \$3,000.
- Currently BISON has over 1,800 scholars in 77 different private schools across Western New York.
- Each family must contribute toward their child's private education.

### STEP 1

Complete a pre-application online at [bisonfund.org](https://bisonfund.org) between **January 15, 2025** and **March 31, 2025**. Call BISON with questions at (716) 854-0869 ext. 1.

### STEP 2

Watch for notification after the BISON Lottery is held on **April 1, 2025**. Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application to receive the scholarship. If you're not chosen, you will automatically be placed on the BISON waitlist.

### STEP 3

If selected, complete the full application online. Enroll your child(ren) in the school of their choice and ask the school to complete the school commitment form.

### STEP 4

Once all the steps are completed, BISON will notify you of your scholarship amount. Watch for email notices to annually renew your BISON Scholarship in February of each year and add siblings.

## INCOME ELIGIBILITY AMOUNTS

Household Size	Total Income (Based on 2024 household income)
2	\$ 57,105
3	\$ 71,955
4	\$ 86,805
5	\$ 101,655
6	\$ 116,505
7	\$ 131,355
8	\$ 146,205





**BISON**  
CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
Giving Parents a Choice • Giving Children a Chance

## FAQ for FAMILIES

More detailed information can be found on our website at [www.bisonfund.org](http://www.bisonfund.org)

### WHO QUALIFIES FOR A BISON K-8 SCHOLARSHIP?

Residents of the 8 counties of Western New York (WNY) with children entering K-8<sup>th</sup> grade with a total family income within the income eligibility scale on the reverse side. You may only apply for your biological or legal guardian children.

### HOW DO NEW FAMILIES APPLY?

New families must complete a pre-application form electronically (online) on our website at [bisonfund.org](http://bisonfund.org). The new family deadline is **March 31, 2025**. Preference is NOT given to early applications; however you must apply by 3/31 to be considered for the lottery. Families applying after the **March 31, 2025** deadline will be placed on our waitlist.



### HOW ARE BISON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CHOSEN?

Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-application forms on **April 1, 2025**. Lottery winners will receive an email with a link directing them to complete a full application in order to receive the scholarship.

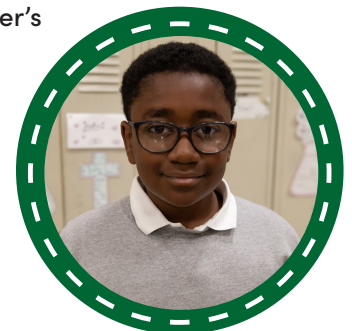
### HOW DO I KNOW IF I WON THE LOTTERY?

All applicants will be notified of lottery results by email on **April 1, 2025**. If you're not chosen in the lottery, you can always reapply for the next school year.



### I RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP AWARD EMAIL ... NOW WHAT?

In your award email, there will be a link to complete your full application. Click on the link and follow the application steps. **The deadline to complete the application is April 30, 2025.** Please be sure to include all your income sources including your Federal 1040 tax return, child support, business income, public assistance, food stamps, Social Security income, unemployment insurance, worker's compensation and financial assistance from family & friends. Select your school (a complete list can be found on our website) and contact the school to complete the school commitment form. After receipt of all the required documents, your scholarship will be calculated based on your household size and income, as well as tuition amount. You must renew annually to continue with BISON.



### I RECEIVED NOTICE I'M ON A WAITLIST ... NOW WHAT?

Unfortunately, there are always more applicants than available funding. We keep waitlist names for the academic year hopeful that additional funding becomes available. If you are not taken off the waitlist, you will need to resubmit a pre-application next year to be considered.

### WHY DO FAMILIES HAVE TO PAY PART OF THE TUITION?

One key component of educational success is parental involvement. Making a financial sacrifice is a strong incentive to becoming and remaining, involved. BISON families are required to pay a minimum of \$500 each year.



# ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LANCASTER, NY- "...visible examples of Gospel living."

March '25

Student lunches are \$3.75, and adult lunches are \$5.50. During this time, we ask that all lunches be prepaid with either cash or check made out to SME, in the exact amount. Any overage will be kept on account. All lunches are comprised of five components; protein, whole grain, vegetables, fruit & milk. In addition to the main entrée, there are three alternate choices offered daily; Turkey Sandwich, Yogurt Parfait, or Sun Butter/Jelly Sandwich. Milk is \$0.50, and may be prepaid if your student buys milk regularly. Snack will now be served to all grades during lunchtime. No snack is ever purchased on account. Snack money must be presented at point of sale. Snacks are \$0.50-\$1.00. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [heerdt@smeschool.com](mailto:heerdt@smeschool.com). We appreciate your support. Liz Heerdt & Tracy Hadsall (menu subject to change)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Lunch = \$3.75 2 Lunches = \$7.50 3 Lunches = \$11.25 4 Lunches = \$15.00 5 Lunches = \$18.75	6 Lunches = \$22.50 7 Lunches = \$26.25 8 Lunches = \$30.00 9 Lunches = \$33.75 10 Lunches = \$37.50	11 Lunches = \$41.25 12 Lunches = \$45.00 13 Lunches = \$48.75 14 Lunches = \$52.50 15 Lunches = \$56.25	16 Lunches = \$60.00 17 Lunches = \$63.75 18 Lunches = \$67.50 19 Lunches = \$71.25 20 Lunches = \$75.00	21 Lunches = \$78.75 22 Lunches = \$82.50  Cash or Check to SME Change Will Go On Acct
3 Pasta w/ Meat Sauce Veggies, Fruit & Milk	4 Beef Taco Bowl Veggies, Fruit & Milk	5 Fish Sticks Veggies, Fruit & Milk  No option B today	6 Chicken Salad Wraps Veggies, Fruit & Milk	7 Cheese Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk  No option B today
10 Pancakes Egg Patty Veggies, Fruit & Milk	11 Beef & Cheese Burrito Veggies, Fruit & Milk	12 Cheeseburgers Veggies, Fruit & Milk	13 Chicken Souvlaki Bowl Veggies, Fruit & Milk	14 Cheese Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk  No option B today
17 Goulash Veggies, Fruit & Milk	18 Open Chicken Pot Pie Over Mashed Potatoes Veggies, Fruit & Milk	19 Hot Dogs Veggies, Fruit & Milk	20 Chicken Caesar Salad Veggies, Fruit & Milk	21 Mozzarella Sticks With Marinara Sauce Veggies, Fruit & Milk  No option B today
24 Bacon, Egg & Cheese On English Muffin Veggies, Fruit & Milk	25 Nachos Supreme Veggies, Fruit & Milk	26 Chicken Patty on a Bun Veggies, Fruit & Milk	27 Sweet & Sour Chicken w/ Ramen Noodles Veggies, Fruit & Milk	28 Cheese Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk  No option B today
31 Waffles & Sausage Veggies, Fruit & Milk	Beef Crumble Over Mashed Potatoes Veggies, Fruit & Milk	Homemade Mac & Cheese Veggies, Fruit & Milk	Sloppy Joes Veggies, Fruit & Milk	Cheese Pizza Veggies, Fruit & Milk  No option B today