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Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School District
BAY PATH REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
57 OLD MUGGETT HILL ROAD
CHARLTON MASSACHUSETTS
(508)248-5971 – (508)987-0326
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September 11, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians:

While the start of the school year looks a little different for everyone, I wanted to share with you some good news that schools nationwide received last week. The USDA extended a waiver that allows schools to serve free breakfast and lunch to ALL students, through 12/31/20 or as long as funds allow. We are thrilled with this news as it means that we will be able to provide all Bay Path students with nutritious and nourishing food for free that will support them, both in school and at home.

Your student is eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch every school day, at no cost, in a safe and welcoming environment. This applies to students who are attending classes in school or virtual classes at home, or a hybrid combination of these models. You may pick up meals for your children who are remote learners at Bay Path or designated schools or other meal sites that are distributing meals. We are finalizing the plans for how, when and where meals will be available (in addition to Bay Path) for remote learners and we will be sharing those plans with families as soon as possible.

When your children eat school meals, it helps the school system by providing federal funds to the district. If your children have never before participated in school meals, consider trying the program this year!

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has requested that the USDA extend free meals for all students for the entire school year. However, as of now, the USDA has only extended free meals for as long as funds are available and no later than December 31, 2020. **Therefore, families should still submit a household application to determine eligibility for free and reduced price school meals.** This will also allow students to qualify for any additional benefits and ensures a seamless transition when schools move back

to a paid program (if the waiver is not extended beyond December 31, 2020. The application is available at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/>

In addition, we also encourage families to apply for SNAP benefits. SNAP provides monthly cash benefits (on an EBT card) to purchase groceries for eligible families. To apply for SNAP, visit www.startwithsnap.org or call the Project Bread FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333. If you are unsure whether your family is eligible, the FoodSource Hotline can assist you with eligibility questions.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached by phone at (508) 248-5971, ext. 1348 or by email at kalicea@baypath.net

Sincerely,

Katie Alicea Tilton

Katie Alicea-Tilton,

Food service Director