

December 12th, 2012

Dear Parent,

Our goals, as a school district, are to attend to the needs of our children and seek every opportunity to better their lives. As you know, the importance of a student having a good breakfast is important for many different health and academic reasons. Based upon that, we are planning to pilot a program in grades 7-12 that will make sure every student will have the chance to have breakfast.

Everyone understands the importance of a balanced diet each day. Beside the importance of a balanced diet, the research indicates many benefits of having breakfast alone, some of which are listed below:

- Children who eat breakfast are likely to have fewer absences and incidents of tardiness than those who do not.
- Students who eat breakfast on a regular basis experience an increase in classroom performance and attentiveness.
- Students who have breakfast are less likely to have discipline problems at school.
- Studies have shown that children who eat breakfast on a regular basis and develop this habit throughout life are less likely to be overweight and experience health issues later in life.

While these are just a few of the benefits, there are many others.

Starting on Wednesday, January 9th, all of the 7-12 students will have the opportunity to eat breakfast, free of charge, each morning. To do so, however, requires a change to the current program. Instead of the present procedure of a 7:48 Jr. high bell ring and the Sr. High bell at 7:57 am, we will start ringing the jr. high bell at 7:43 am and the sr. high bell at 7:52 am, so that no class time is missed. On their respective bell, students will come to the vending areas where a kiosk will be set up. At this kiosk, students will be part of our "Grab and Go" Program, where they will grab their bag and go to their first period class. Since we are ringing the bell earlier, students will have this extra time to have breakfast, hear any announcements, and be prepared for their first period class. The tardy bell will still ring at the same time they do now, which is 7:57 (Jr. High) and 8:02 (Sr. High).

It is our intention to pilot this program until Spring Break. At that time, based on several factors, we will determine the feasibility of continuing the program.

Sincerely,

Annesa Thompson, Superintendent
Matt Wright, Principal
Marked Tree School District Marked Tree High School