

Schools Update: Summer Lunch Program in Jeopardy!

By Dr. Ken Cox

We need your help! For the past two summers we have been able to provide thousands of meals for our children at no cost to them or their families. As we begin to plan for this summer's free lunch program we are finding that the number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch may hinder our ability to qualify for this vital service.

The percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced lunch is used as a qualifying statistic to get the funding necessary to run the program. Currently we have 47% of our grade school students, 48% of our middle school students, and 35% of our high school students who have applied and been approved for this money saving program. We need 50% in at least one of our schools to qualify. This means we only need 6 more elementary or 2 more middle school students to help us reach this goal.

Application to the program is totally confidential and can bring with it other money saving benefits as well. There are only three people in the district qualified to know whether your family is

on this program or not, two in the district office who processes the applications, and the one who checks students at mealtime. The district has a long-standing policy of adjusting student fees such as our pay-to-play fees, for those who qualify, but ONLY if the parents want this to happen, as this allows one other person access to the information.

What we are asking is that you take a moment to review the following income guidelines to determine if your family is eligible. Even if you choose to keep the information confidential and not participate in the free or reduced

50% qualifying threshold.

By the way, studies have shown that students who eat from the National School Lunch Program are more likely to eat more vegetables, drink more milk and fewer sweetened drinks, and eat fewer cookies and salty snacks than students who make other lunch choices.

It is important to note that this data is not only used to impact the summer lunch program it also helps our schools qualify for other grants and programs that can directly impact all students in the district. I would ask that you please consider filling out an

application or at least calling the district office for more information.

To apply for the program you can use the new online version of the Oregon Confidential Family Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meals (<https://district.ode.state.or.us/apps/firlapp/default.aspx>) or you can get an application from the school or the new district office at 1201 Texas Avenue. A link to the online application is on our District website (www.vernonia.k12.or.us). If you have questions about completing the application, or would like a copy sent to you by mail, please contact Barb Carr in the district office 503-429-5891 and she will provide the help you need.

Completing the application only takes a few moments and one application takes care of all your children no matter which school they attend. Please help us continue the summer lunch program and qualify for additional ways to support our students by taking the time to see if you qualify.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Household Size	Annual	Twice Per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$20,665.00	\$862.00	\$795.00	\$398.00
2	\$27,991.00	\$1,167.00	\$1,077.00	\$539.00
3	\$35,317.00	\$1,472.00	\$1,359.00	\$680.00
4	\$42,643.00	\$1,777.00	\$1,641.00	\$821.00
5	\$49,969.00	\$2,083.00	\$1,922.00	\$961.00
6	\$57,295.00	\$2,388.00	\$2,204.00	\$1,102.00
7	\$64,621.00	\$2,693.00	\$2,486.00	\$1,243.00
8	\$71,947.00	\$2,998.00	\$2,768.00	\$1,384.00

lunch or reduced fees, you can help all of the students throughout the summer and in other areas as well if we meet the

Open to the Public - Adult Basketball

Vernonia High School gym will be available to all adults interested in playing pick-up basketball games or just shooting around.

Sunday nights, 7-8:30 pm
No charge

For more information contact Aaron Miller 503-429-1333

Vernonia Students of the Month

January 2013



Logan Wolf, Grade 1

Logan is kind, respectful and responsible student who is also very helpful and enjoys assisting others. He is always on task and does a good job on his work. Logan says his favorite subject is math. Logan plays T-ball and soccer. He also says he likes to read in his spare time.

Jonathan Levenseller, Grade 8

Johnathan is a remarkable young man who shows great initiative in keeping track of and completing his assignments, while also advocating for himself when he needs clarification. In his science class there was a group project where students created their own "Mousetraps" modeled after the popular game. Johnathan took the lead in his group, staying calm, on task and focused. He has shown great growth personally and socially this year. Jonathan says his favorite subject is math and is involved in Boy Scouts. Jonathan says he lives on a farm and has lots of chores at home that keep him busy in his spare time.



Nic Court, Grade 12

Nic has really improved his follow through, has been meeting deadlines and completing his assignments. Nic says his favorite subjects are math and Mr. Brown's history class. Nic says he has been working hard to improve his grades and says his teachers have been pushing him to graduate. Nic is also involved in the VHS Forestry program. In his spare time Nic says he likes to ride dirt bikes, go 4 wheeling and drive his '71 Chevy truck.

Sponsored by Vernonia's Voice

Vernonia School District Volunteer of the Month January, 2013

Last year Vernonia High School entered the FIRST Robotics program with the help of numerous volunteers and mentors.

The VHS team is at it again this year. Their build season for their project is extremely short, running from the start of January to the middle of February. The season culminates with competition in March.

We could not single out one person above the others, but would love to recognize the FIRST Robotics Mentors as the Vernonia School District Volunteers of the Month for January 2013. These folks give up every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday to help our kids. Without them the team could not do what they do.

Jack Finzel
Jay Anderson
Jeff Ely
Mitch Siebert
Jim Buxton

Greg Schaumburg
Daniel Mullikin
Mike Justice
Brandon Krause
Chris Dass



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