



Welcome Back, Little Chiefs!

The staff at Afton Elementary is excited to welcome our Little Chiefs back for another year of learning, growth, and fun! The beginning of a new school year brings fresh opportunities, new friendships, and exciting experiences, and we are so happy to see our classrooms and hallways filled with smiling faces once again.

This year our students and staff will continue building the positive culture that makes Afton Elementary so special through our House System. More than just teams, we want our houses to be like school families where students encourage one another, celebrate successes, serve others, and create lasting friendships across all grade levels. Our incoming kindergarten students and students in other grades who are new to Afton Elementary will take part in the House Sorting Ceremony this month, where they will discover the house that will become their school family throughout their early elementary years.

As Little Chiefs, we strive every day to be safe, be respectful, be responsible, and achieve success by doing our very best. We are proud of the culture we've built together and are excited to welcome our newest students into it.

Last year, Afton Elementary continued a tradition of excellence by being recognized as one of only seven elementary schools in Wyoming to exceed state expectations for three consecutive years. While we're proud of that accomplishment, we're even more proud of the caring students, dedicated staff, and supportive families who make our school such a special place to learn.

Here's to another amazing year of learning, laughter, and Little Chief pride!

Four Houses, One Family!

Danny Robinson
Principal, Afton Elementary School

Coming Events

August 31.....Hearing Screening

Sept. 1.....Vision Screening

Sept. 3.....Sort New Students into Houses

Sept. 4.....No School

Sept. 7.....Labor Day No School

Sept. 11.....1st grade to Broulins

Sept. 16.....Author Visit-
Greg Pizzoli

Sept. 18.....Kindergarten House
Sorting

Sept. 24.....3rd Grade Star Valley
Days

Sept. 25.....No School

Sept. 30.....Picture Day!

Morning Drop-Off & Visitor Safety Update

As part of our continued commitment to keeping every child safe, we want to remind families of an upcoming change to our morning procedures.

For many years, Afton Elementary has had a visitor check-in procedure during the school day. **Parents and visitors who wish to go beyond the main office are asked to check in at the office, have their driver's license scanned through our Raptor visitor management system, and wear a visitor badge while in the building.**

Beginning Monday, August 31, this same procedure will also apply during morning drop-off from 7:25–7:55 a.m. for all grade levels.

Students may continue to enter through their regular designated entrances during morning drop-off just as they have in the past. However, if a parent, guardian, or other visitor would like to enter the school and go beyond the main office—including walking a child to their classroom—we ask that you first enter through the **main office and complete our regular visitor check-in process.**

We recognize that this will be a change to the morning routine for some families, and we appreciate your support and understanding. **Our goal is not to limit families' connection with our school. It is to ensure that we know who is in our building and that we are using a consistent safety practice throughout the entire school day.**

We love having our families be part of Afton Elementary. Thank you for helping us maintain a school that is both **welcoming to our families and safe for every child.**

Danny Robinson

Principal

Afton Elementary

307-885-8002

darobinson@lcsd2.org

Phone Messages

If you need to get a message to your child before school lets out for the day, please call **before 2:00**. Because of the busyness at the end of the day we cannot guarantee that your student will get the message after 2:00.

New Staff



Meet Melissa Cranney—She is Afton's new 1st grade Special Education Teacher! Melissa attended LDS Business College and Western Governors University (WGU). In her free time, Melissa loves being on the water, especially boating and paddle boarding. When winter arrives, you can find her skiing and snowshoeing. Melissa's oldest son is expecting twin daughters in November!



Meet McKenna Robinson! McKenna Robinson is joining Afton Elementary as our new first-grade teacher! She attended the University of Wyoming and is excited to begin this new adventure. In her free time, McKenna loves camping, hunting, fishing, trapping, farming, and anything crafty. Most of all, she enjoys spending time with her husband and son. She is also learning sign language and enjoys adding new skills to her life. We are excited to welcome McKenna to the Afton Elementary family!



Meet Jessalyn Jolley! Jessa grew up in Shelley, Idaho, and comes from a family of educators—both of her parents are teachers. She earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from BYU-Idaho and her master's degree in educational technology and Instructional Design. Jessa has taught first grade in Blackfoot and third grade in Shelley. She recently got married last June, making this past year an especially exciting one! In her free time, Jessa loves baking, doing crafts, watching college football, playing volleyball and pickleball, and trying new things. Jessa is always up for an adventure and looks forward to seeing what new experiences are ahead!



Meet Artie Johnson! He is our new school counselor! Artie attended BYU-Idaho and USU. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and traveling, especially to San Diego, California. Artie shares his birthday with the famous Abraham Lincoln! He once spent two months in a full-body cast, from his armpits all the way down to his ankles!



Meet Daphne Arbizu! Daphne is Afton's new Music teacher. Daphne has called Afton home since 2009. She loves being involved in music and the arts and has a passion for sharing that love with others. Before moving to Afton, Daphne taught high school band and orchestra for many years and has more recently enjoyed teaching violin lessons. She is excited to bring her love of music to the Afton Elementary community and looks forward to getting to know everyone!



Meet Savannah Robinson! She is our new Title 1 Aide! Savannah attended BYU-Idaho. In her free time, she enjoys camping, reading, watching a good movie, crafting, playing games, and spending time with her family. She has also travel to Alaska!



Meet Marie Nield, our new kitchen staff member! While Marie isn't new to the kitchen, she has worked here before and is happy to be back. Marie enjoys making bread, gardening, crocheting, and reading. Marie has spent two summers working at a fishing lodge in Alaska!



Meet Michelle Miller, our new addition to the kitchen staff! Michelle is originally from Chicago and attended BYU. In her free time, she enjoys reading, yoga, music, and spending time with her second grader, Jessie. One fun fact about Michelle is that she is a certified scuba instructor! We are excited to have Michelle join our school!

Assignment Changes:

Rachel Gardner: Office Aide

Lacey Alston: Compliance Facilitator

Ericka Putnam: Kindergarten Teacher

Chloee Moffat: Kindergarten Aide

Ali Mackey/Michelle Van Slyke: 3rd Grade Teacher

Learning Update

Kindergarten is like building a house, you have to start with a strong foundation!

September is all about learning what it means to be a kindergartener. We will spend lots of time learning our routines and procedures, practicing how to be independent, making new friends, and learning how our classroom community works.

We have had such a wonderful start, and are already seeing so many smiles, friendships, and proud little moments happening in our classrooms!

We are excited to begin **26 Letters in 26 Days!** Each day, we will introduce a new letter along with its Zoo Phonics animal, action, and sound. The students love getting up and moving as they learn, and it makes learning those letters extra memorable!

We will also begin working on writing our names the **"Kindergarten way"** and strengthening our fine motor muscles through a variety of hands-on activities. Our writing journey will begin with an illustration unit, where students will practice drawing shapes and combining them to create simple pictures. We are excited to see how their drawings and ideas grow throughout the year!

We are also forming small groups in preparation for our core reading program, **Reading Mastery**, which we will begin after Labor Day. We can't wait to get our reading brains working!

Math will begin with learning the important routines and procedures that will help us be successful mathematicians all year long. Students will learn how to use and put away their math mats, how to use our math shelf, and how to take care of our math tools.

Our first mathematical focus will be **numbers 0–5**. Students will practice counting objects, recognizing and writing numbers, comparing numbers, and understanding what each number represents.

As the month goes on, ask your Kindergartener about the special math tools they are learning to use. You may be surprised by how much they can teach you!

While we are busy learning letters and numbers, some of the **most important learning happening in September** is learning how to be part of a classroom family. We will practice using kind words, taking turns, solving little problems, following directions, caring for our classroom, and becoming more independent each day.

We are also excited to introduce our **House System!** Inspired by the Ron Clark Academy, our students will be sorted into one of four houses. Throughout the year, our houses will work together, build friendships, celebrate one another, and show what it means to be a great teammate. Our goal is to create a strong school community where every student feels like they belong!

Kindergarten is a BIG transition, and we are so proud of how much our students are already learning and growing. Thank you for partnering with us as we begin this exciting journey together!

1st Grade

We are so excited to get this year started, and we are off to a great start!

Reading: We will be starting Reading Mastery and work on our decoding skills. In class, we will be getting to know the core story elements of setting and characters. Making connections with ourselves and story characters, and learning to ask questions about a story will also be a focus. Writing: As we work on our writing skills, we will be working hard on our handwriting, to form our letters correctly. We will practice stretching out sounds to write words, and then learning the foundation of good sentences. Math: The first math unit we will be working on is numbers to 10. The goals of this chapter are to lead students to more efficient counting strategies with one-to-one correspondence, to read and write numbers in numerals and words, to compare the number of objects in two or more sets, as well as to order numbers in ascending and descending orders

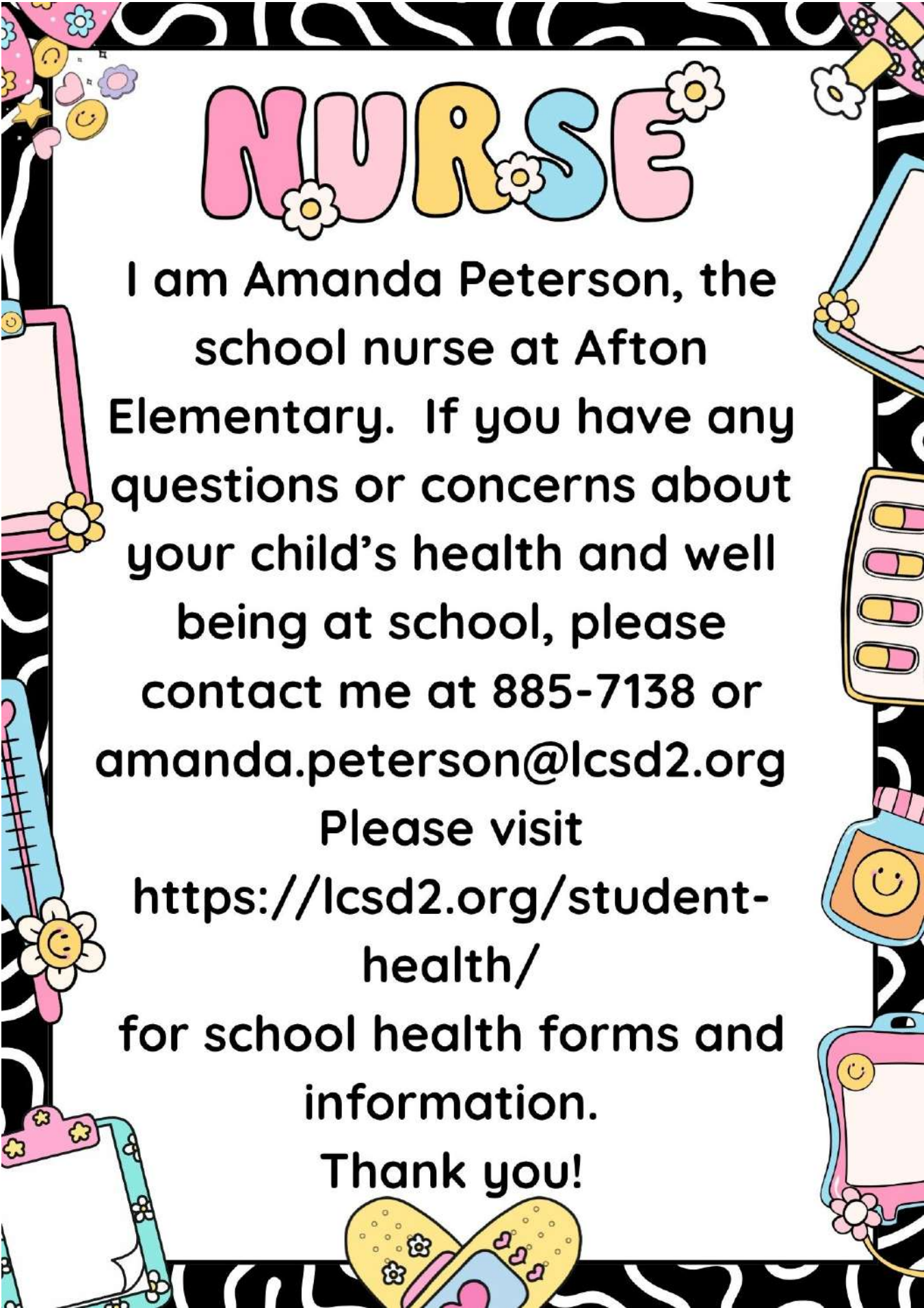
2nd Grade

Welcome to 2nd grade!! We are so excited for another school year and look forward to teaching your child. Some things to know about 2nd grade. In 2nd grade we work really hard on mastering our addition and subtraction math facts by the end of the year. We would like all students to pass off their addition facts by December and then we dive into mastering our subtraction facts the 2nd half of the year. Students work to earn a chocolate coin and then a real \$1 coin for passing them off! Spend 5 minutes each night working on your math facts and you will have them mastered in no time! In 2nd grade we also really work on our reading skills. Please have your student read 20 minutes a night at home. This will help your student tremendously! We will work hard at teaching them reading skills during the day and would love for them to practice those skills with you at home. Starting in September we hope to spend a day at the park learning from people in our community. We look forward to learning more about where we live and the community helpers who make this a special place to be. We will also do our 2nd grade tie dyed shirts in September as well and look forward to kicking off a year of learning!

3rd Grade

Third grade started the year off as jet pilots in science. We have been learning a growth mindset in all areas of life because we as third graders are always striving to do a little more and be a little better! We are excited to work hard and play hard through September with celebrations like Star Valley Day (Sept. 24). Third grade is asking Parents to come on Sept. 21st at 6PM to learn more about how third grade goes. We are excited for the coming year!





NURSE

I am Amanda Peterson, the school nurse at Afton Elementary. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's health and well being at school, please contact me at 885-7138 or amanda.peterson@lcsd2.org

Please visit
<https://lcsd2.org/student-health/>
for school health forms and information.

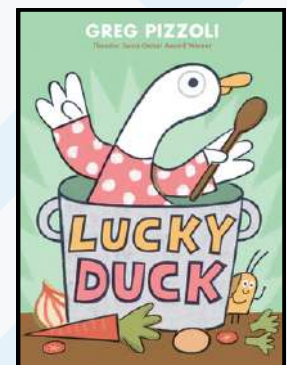
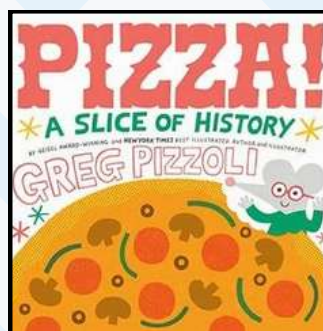
Thank you!

**Four-time Theodor Seuss
Geisel Award-winner**

Greg Pizzoli



**is coming to
Afton Elementary!
Wednesday
September 16, 2026**



Greg Pizzoli Book Order

STUDENT NAME :

TEACHER :

GRADE:

Please return orders & payment to Mrs. Merritt by **Tuesday, September 8**. Cash or checks payable to Afton Elementary.

BOOK TITLE	PRICE	QTY	SUBTOTAL
Hi, Jack!	\$7		
Jack Blasts Off	\$7		
Jack at Bat	\$7		
Jack Goes West	\$7		
Jack at the Zoo	\$7		
Too Many Jacks	\$7		
Jack & Santa	\$7		
Jack Gets Zapped!	\$7		
Lucky Duck	\$12		
Pizza: A Slice of History	\$12		
When the Sun Goes Down	\$12		
Earl & Worm #1: The Bad Idea & Other Stories (PB)	\$5		
Earl & Worm #2: The Big Mess & Other Stories	\$7		
Earl & Worm #3: Snow Problem & Other Stories	\$7		
TOTALS:	--		

September 2026

Breakfast

Fruits and Veggie Carbs
Milk Variety Served Daily:
[View Milk Nutritionals](#)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 Please include a 1/2 cup fruit with your breakfast	1 Yogurt Parfait -or- Trix Cereal Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Applesauce Cup Fruit Punch	2 Vanilla Waffle -or- Bug Bite Grahams Strawberry Yogurt --Served With-- Zee Zee Dried Fruit Fresh Orange	3 Fluffy Golden Pancake -or- Cinnamon Chex Cereal Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Fresh Strawberries Grape Juice	4 No School
 Labor Day No School	8 Apple Frudel -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Strawberry Yogurt --Served With-- Cherry Craisins Diced Peach Cup	9 Egg & Cheese Muffin -or- Trix Cereal Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Applesauce Cup Fruit Punch	10 Mini Strawberry Bagel -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Strawberry Yogurt --Served With-- Zee Zee Dried Fruit Mandarin Orange Cup	11 Fluffy Golden Pancake -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Fresh Strawberries Grape Juice
14 Banana Bread -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Diced Pear Cup Cherry Craisins	15 Ham & Swiss Croissant -or- Trix Cereal Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Diced Peach Cup Apple Juice	16 Blueberry Muffin -or- Bug Bite Grahams Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Diced Cinnamon Apples Zee Zee Dried Fruit	17 Mini Apple Bites -or- Cinnamon Chex Cereal Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Fresh Orange Very Berry Juice	18 Breakfast Burrito -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Strawberry Yogurt --Served With-- Zee Zee Dried Fruit Fresh Orange
21 Ham & Egg Bagel -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Cherry Craisins Applesauce Cup	22 French Toast Sticks -or- Trix Cereal Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Mandarin Orange Cup Fruit Punch	23 Choco Chip Muffin -or- Campfire Smore's Bar Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Diced Peach Cup Zee Zee Dried Fruit	24 Pumpkin Bread -or- Cinnamon Chex Cereal Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Mixed Fruit Cup Grape Juice	25 No School
28 Pancake Wrap -or- Cocoa Cherry Bar Strawberry Yogurt --Served With-- Applesauce Cup Cherry Craisins	29 Mini Cinnis -or- Trix Cereal Mozzarella Cheese Stick --Served With-- Mixed Fruit Cup Apple Juice	30 Pancake Sausage Griddle Muffin -or- Bug Bite Grahams Strawberry Yogurt --Served With-- Diced Peach Cup Emoji Fries	<i>Menus are subject to change without notice because of supply issues. Only approved items will be substituted.</i> <i>This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.</i>	

Meal Prices:

Elementary Student Breakfast-\$2.00
 Elementary Student Lunch-\$3.00
 Adult Breakfast-\$2.95
 Adult Lunch-\$5.15

Afton and Thayne Lunch

September 2026

Fruits and Veggie Carbs

Milk Variety Served Daily:

View Milk Nutritionals

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch includes items from 5 components. Please make sure to choose at least 3 components with 1 being from the fruit or vegetable group.	1 Mandarin Orange Chicken Brown Rice Fresh Mandarins Celery Sticks Steamed Broccoli	2 Pepperoni Ripper Fresh Strawberries Romaine/Green Leaf Salad Tomatoes Cucumbers Black Beans Jerri's Chocolate Cake	3 Hearty Chicken Noodle Soup Warm Breadstick Diced Pears Cauliflower Florettes Red Pepper Strips	4 Nacho Meat Tortilla Chips Diced Pears Romaine/Green Leaf Salad Grape Tomatoes Black Beans Banana Creamie Jr
7  Labor Day No School	8 Golden Crispy Chicken Fillet Hamburger Bun Mixed Fruit California Blend Veggies Cucumbers	9 Spaghetti Sauce w/Meat Spaghetti Pasta Warm Breadstick Diced Peaches w/Juice Baby Carrots Green Peas	10 Oven Baked Cheese Tomato Soup Raspberry/Lemon Sidekick Broccoli Florettes Cauliflower Florettes	11 Chili Cinnamon Roll Fresh Orange Celery Sticks Baby Carrots
14 Egg Patty Sausage Patty French Toast Sticks Red Variety Apple Power Punch Juice Hash Brown Patties	15 Chicken Zoo Nuggets Diced Peaches w/Juice Crinkle Fries Broccoli Florettes Grape Tomatoes Cucumbers	16 Beefy Rotini Bake Warm Breadstick Kiwi Cauliflower Florettes Broccoli Florettes	17 Cheese Pizza Rounds Fresh Strawberries Green Beans Romaine/Green Leaf Salad Grape Tomatoes Cucumbers Black Beans	18
21 Vanilla Waffle Scrambled Eggs Fresh Orange Cauliflower Florettes Emoji Fries	22 Boneless Chicken Wings Cheesy Rotini Applesauce Cup Romaine/Green Leaf Salad Grape Tomatoes	23 BBQ Chicken Teriyaki Brown Rice Warm Roll Golden Delicious Apple Broccoli Florettes Baby Carrots	24 Cheese Quesadilla Fresh Strawberries Sweet Corn Celery Sticks Black Beans	25
28 BBQ Pork Rib w/Sauce Hoagie Bun Cantaloupe Green Beans Cauliflower Florettes Brownie	29 Chicken Drumstick Mashed Potatoes Chicken Gravy Warm Roll Kiwi Baby Carrots Broccoli Florettes	30 Pepperoni Pizza Pineapple Tidbits Romaine/Green Leaf Salad Cucumbers Grape Tomatoes Black Beans Banana Creamie Jr	<i>Menus are subject to change without notice because of supply issues. Only approved items will be substituted.</i> <i>This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.</i>	

Meal Prices:

Elementary Student Breakfast-\$2.00

Elementary Student Lunch-\$3.00

Adult Breakfast-\$2.95

Adult Lunch-\$5.15

