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Thursday, March 19, 2020

FREE MEALS FOR STUDENTS

Here's where they can get a free lunch in Wayne and Holmes counties

By VALERIE ROYZMAN

Staff Writer WOOSTER ? Second-grader Emery Kallio and her fourth-grade brother, Jack, skipped toward the bus waiting at the entrance to Parkview Elementary on Wednesday morning. They stepped up to the door, quickly chatted with the bus driver and volunteers, then walked off, bagged meals in their hands and wide grins on their faces.

"Did you remember to say thank you?" their mother, Melanie Jones, asked.

"Thank you!" they yelled back in unison.

Parkview is one of 15 meal locations throughout Wooster where students can pick up meals during the school closure that Gov. Mike DeWine called for last week, a step taken across the state to curb the spread of the coronavirus. Wooster City Schools is distributing breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday, and buses are staying at each location for 15 to 20 minutes. The district is able to do so thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Summer Lunch Program, a federal grant initiative.

"I think this is really important because there

are so many families who don't have the opportunity to get a healthy lunch," Jones said. "Parents might be working, so kids who are old enough can come here on their own. I happened to be off [work] today, so I thought, 'Let's go for a bike ride and get some exercise.'" When Jones is at work, her kids are normally in school. Now, Emery and Jack are staying with their older sister, Corinne Kallio, a student at Wooster High School. Jones said her kids will likely stop by a few more times this week when she's not able to cook for them while working.

The district distributed about 350 meals Tuesday, and about another 350 Wednesday, Superintendent Michael Tefs said.

"We are expecting the number to grow each day as our families become aware of our systems for distribution," he added.

Brad Veres, a bus driver for the district, said he delivered meals to two other locations ? Melrose Elementary and Brown Hollow Apartments ? on Tuesday, and he and volunteers gave out about 25 meals. Breakfast contained a breakfast bar, juice and milk, while lunch featured a sandwich,

carrot sticks and an apple. Veres said it varies depending on the day.



Jane Anne White hands out lunches to students who showed up at Parkview Elementary.

Mike Schenk, The-Daily-Record.com

"It feels good to get out and help where I can," he said.

Nearly 50% of students in the district rely on school breakfast and lunch, Don Lewis, food service supervisor, said in an email sent by the district earlier this week.

Susan Battig, a specialized paraprofessional at the high school, was on the bus with Veres, handing out meals.

"I'm happy that I'm doing something for our students and families in the area that need this," she said, adding that it was nice to see one of her students stop by, even though she is trying to keep a safe distance from the students to avoid the spread of germs.

Some parents, like Cassidy Cooper, stopped by without their kids to quickly grab meals and take them home.

Cooper, father to an infant, kindergartener and two fifth-graders who were at home with his wife, said it was "pretty impressive that the district is going the extra mile" to provide meals, though he added that transitioning to online schoolwork has been difficult with only one device for his kids to share.

"Especially doing math," he said. "We haven't been in school in 30 years, so we're having to learn it all over and it's actually quite different than it was when we were kids. There's a lot we're trying to work around with getting schoolwork done, still trying to maintain a household and everything else like we normally would. It's putting a lot of pressure on parents, and I'm sure the teachers are very stressed as well."

Cooper, who said he works for Woosh Delivery, isn't going to work right now. He's worried about the possibility that the school closure may be extended, especially because his wife is having heart surgery this week and he doesn't consider himself tech-savvy.

In the email sent to the Wooster City Schools community, Tefs thanked the district's transportation and food services departments for their commitment during this time.

"Between the USDA, our local faith-based partners and service organizations, we are extremely confident that our students and their families will be well cared for while schools are closed for the coronavirus," he said. "Not surprisingly, the response and support of our Wooster community has been overwhelming and heartwarming."

Here is the list of Wayne and Holmes county schools distributing food for children.

Chippewa

The district was developing a plan for food distribution, which was not immediately available Wednesday.

Dalton Local

The district is providing lunch for all students. If families cannot stop by one of the locations and need a meal delivered, call 330-828-2405 and select option 2.

Between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday: Dalton Elementary, 177 N. Mill St..

Dalton Middle School, 250 N. Church St.

East Holmes Local Schools

The district is making plans for the coming weeks. For the time being, it is referring families to local resources.

Call Love INC of Greater Holmes County at 330-473-6017 to have meals delivered.

Taco kits are available between 7 and 8 p.m. Monday and between 9 and 11 a.m Tuesday at Berlin Mennonite Church, 4718 U.S. Route 62, Berlin. Sign up for a time slot for pickup at www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EADAE2AA6F49-family. Call or text Jeff with questions: 330-317-2161.

Meal boxes are available at Mennonite Christian Assembly Church, 10664

Fryburg Road, Fredericksburg. Sign up for a time slot for pickup at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040848acae2ea7f85-mcafood>. Call or text Nick with questions: 330-473-7075.

Between noon and 1 p.m. from March 27 through April 3, Broken Grounds Coffee Co. will offer one item from the children's menu for free to all school-aged children. Call 234-301-9021 to order. Visit the drive-thru at 214 W. Jackson St., Millersburg.

Between 1 and 5 p.m. Monday; 1 and 4:30 p.m. Wednesday; and 1 and 4:30 p.m. Friday, the Love Center Food Pantry, 1291 Massillon Road, Suite A, Millersburg, is offering meals, which volunteers will bring to your car. You will need to give your name, address and an ID.

The Millersburg Church of God Food Pantry, 10643 State Route 39, Millersburg, is offering food, which will be brought to your car.

Green Local

The district is providing meals through April 3. For families needing meals delivered, visit forms.gle/zhuZTczwEDiLDvwL7.

Between 11 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday, visit the event entrance located near the playground, 200 Smithie Drive, Smithville.

Northwestern Local

As of Wednesday, the district is providing breakfast and lunch "either at mid-day time or evening time ? not the same individuals both times," according to an update posted on the district's website.

Lea Crest Estates Mobile Home, 360 S. Main St., West Salem.

Mohican Church of the Brethren, 7759 Elyria Road, West Salem.

Starting Monday, families can come to Lea Crest between 11 a.m. and noon or Mohican Church between 11 a.m. and noon and between 5 and 6 p.m. Food distribution will be Monday and Thursday; each will be for multiple days (Monday for three days and Thursday for four days).

The district will continue to deliver meals to families who cannot visit the locations. Call 419-846-3151 if you are in need.

Norwayne Local

The district is delivering meals each week ? five breakfasts and five lunches ? to students who qualify for free or reduced meals, Superintendent Karen O'Hare said. If parents haven't received a call from the district, or their children qualify and they wish to participate, call 330-435-6382.

Orrville City

The district is providing free grab-n-go lunches between 11 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday: Orrville High School, 841 Ella St., Orrville. St. Agnes Church, visit the corner of E. Oak and Lake streets.

Rittman Exempted

The district is providing free grab-n-go lunches between 11 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday: Rittman High School main entrance ? 50 Saurer St. in Rittman ? or the picnic pavilion on Strawberry Hill.

Between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, The Server, 51 N. Main St., is providing breakfast and lunch to-go.

Between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Rittman United Methodist Church, 211 N. Metzger Ave., Rittman, is providing meals. Contact Rutie Trigg if you need to set up alternate arrangements for pickup: ruthietrigg@hotmail.com or 330-925-4015.

Southeast Local

The district is providing free grab-n-go lunches between

11 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday. Visit the main entrance of your local elementary: Apple

Creek Elementary, 173 W. Main St., Apple Creek.

Fredericksburg Elementary, 160 W. Clay St., Fredericksburg.

Holmesville Elementary, 8141 E. Jackson St., Holmesville.

Mount Eaton Elementary, 8746 Market St., Mount Eaton.

Triway Local

The district has a plan in place through Friday. Future food service options will be evaluated weekly, said Melissa Snyder, administrative secretary. "Students can pick up from whatever building is most convenient for them, not necessarily from the the school that they attend," she said. "We are not providing breakfast."

Between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday: Shreve Elementary, 598 N. Market St., Shreve.

Wooster Township Elementary, 1071 Dover Road, Wooster.

Triway High School, 3205 Shreve Road, Wooster.

West Holmes Local

The district is offering curbside pickup at each of its school buildings. Students will receive a grocery bag with seven breakfast meals and seven lunch meals each week. The district already distributed this week, and it plans to distribute again March 30 and March 31.

Killbuck Elementary, 299 School St., Killbuck.

Lakeville Elementary, 14059 State Route 226, Lakeville.

Millersburg Elementary, 430 E. Jackson St., Millersburg.

Nashville Elementary, 13495 State Route 39, Big Prairie.

West Holmes Middle School, 10901 State Route 39, Millersburg.

West Holmes High School, 10909 State Route 39, Millersburg.

Wooster City

The district will deploy 10 school buses and make 15 different stops throughout Wooster to provide breakfast and lunch.

Monday-Friday: 11 a.m. at 1684 Mechanicsburg Road on Rosebud (Center Circle).

11:30 a.m. at 1855 Mechanicsburg Road Apartments.

11 a.m. at Parkview Elementary, 773 Parkview Drive.

11:20 a.m. at Wooster YMCA, 680 Woodland Ave. (parking lot).

11 a.m. at Cornerstone Elementary, 101 W. Bowman St. (North Drive Loop).

11:25 a.m. at the Wayne County Library, 220 W. Liberty St.

11 a.m. at Salvation Army, 437 S. Market St.

11 a.m. at Community Action Wayne/Medina, 905 Pittsburgh Ave.

11:20 a.m. Corner of Palmer and Rebecca streets.

11 a.m. Corner of Gasche and Winter streets.

11 a.m. at Melrose Elementary, 1641 Sunset Lane (bus loop on Melrose Drive).

11:20 a.m. at Brown Hollow Apartments, 2222 Melrose Drive.

11 a.m. at Northgate Apartments, 940 Northgate Drive.

11 a.m. at Melrose Trailer Park, 4400 Melrose Drive (gazebo at the office).

11 a.m. at Spruce Tree Village Mobile Home office, 5854 Cleveland Road.