



The Renaissance
Charter School
"Developing Leaders for the Renaissance of New York"

Student Food, Beverage, and Lunch Policy

Effective: 9/1/26

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to promote a safe, clean, and distraction-free learning environment while supporting student health and maintaining the cleanliness of school facilities.

General Expectations

Students are expected to follow all school rules regarding food and beverages while on school property and during school-sponsored activities.

Beverage Policy

1. Students are permitted to bring water to school for personal consumption throughout the day.
2. Water may be carried in reusable bottles: sports-style water bottles are **NOT** permitted.
3. Only water is permitted in student bottles or containers during the school day.
4. Drinks such as soda, juice, energy drinks, coffee beverages, flavored drinks, and similar beverages are not permitted in classrooms, hallways, or other instructional areas unless specifically authorized by school administration for a school-sponsored event or medical need.

Outside Food Policy

1. Students are not permitted to bring outside food into classrooms or instructional spaces for consumption during the school day unless authorized by staff for a school-approved activity.
2. Students may bring lunch from home for their assigned lunch period.

3. All lunch items brought from home must remain stored in the student's locker until the student's assigned lunch period.
4. Food may only be consumed in designated cafeteria or approved eating areas during assigned meal times.

Safety and Cleanliness

1. Students are expected to dispose of all trash properly and help maintain a clean school environment.
2. Food or beverages that create disruptions, excessive mess, or safety concerns may be confiscated by staff.
3. The school reserves the right to restrict any food or beverage item that may pose a health, safety, or disciplinary concern.

Medical Exceptions

Students with documented medical conditions or dietary needs requiring accommodations should submit appropriate documentation to the school nurse or administration. Approved accommodations will be honored in accordance with applicable laws and school procedures.

Enforcement

Failure to comply with this policy may result in confiscation of prohibited items and/or disciplinary consequences consistent with the school's code of conduct.

Outdoor Lunch (Grades 7-12)

The school recognizes outdoor lunch privileges as an opportunity for students in grades 7–12 to demonstrate responsibility, independence, and good judgment. Outdoor lunch is a privilege, not a right, and may be suspended or revoked at the discretion of the school.

Eligibility

Students in grades 7–12 are eligible to participate in outdoor lunch privileges provided that all required permissions and school expectations are met.

At the beginning of each school year, a parent or guardian must complete the Outdoor Lunch Consent Form through PowerSchool before a student may participate.

Lunch Cards

Students approved for outdoor lunch privileges will be issued a lunch card.

- Students receiving outdoor lunch privileges for the first time will be issued a new lunch card.
- Students who have previously received outdoor lunch privileges will continue using their previously issued lunch card.
- Students are responsible for maintaining and safeguarding their lunch card at all times.
- Lost Lunch Cards:
 - Students who lose their lunch card will need to get a “*Lunch Card Replacement Form*” from Laurie Zic or Mary Sugrue.
 - Once the student completes the form, they turn it into the main office along with their \$10.00 replacement fee.

Leaving and Returning to the Building

Students must follow all procedures when leaving and returning to the building for outdoor lunch.

- Students must present their lunch card at the security desk before exiting the building.
- The lunch card will be held at the security desk while the student is out for lunch.
- Students are not permitted to bring their backpack, or any bag, out to lunch. They must lock their bag inside their locker before leaving the building for lunch.
- Students must retrieve their lunch card from security upon returning to the building.
- Students are expected to return to school on time and report promptly to their next scheduled class.

Student Expectations

To maintain outdoor lunch privileges, students are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior and comply with all school rules.

The following expectations apply:

- Students are not permitted to bring backpacks or large bags outside during lunch.
- Students are not permitted to bring outside food or beverages back into the building after lunch.
- Students must conduct themselves appropriately while off school grounds and represent the school community respectfully at all times.

- Students must comply with all directives from school staff and security personnel.

Suspension or Revocation of Privileges

Outdoor lunch privileges may be suspended or revoked for students who fail to meet school expectations.

Reasons for suspension may include, but are not limited to:

- Lateness to school
- Lateness returning from lunch
- Cutting class or excessive tardiness
- Disciplinary issues during the school day
- Failure to follow outdoor lunch procedures
- Misuse of the lunch privilege in any way

The length of any suspension or revocation of outdoor lunch privileges will be determined by school administration based on the nature and frequency of the behavior.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in additional disciplinary action in accordance with the school's code of conduct.

Cafeteria Behavioral and Procedural Expectations

The cafeteria is a shared community space. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a safe, respectful, and responsible manner at all times during lunch periods. Failure to meet cafeteria expectations may result in disciplinary consequences and/or the loss of privileges.

Arrival and Entry Procedures

- Students are expected to report directly to the cafeteria during their assigned lunch period.
- Students must line up calmly and orderly outside the cafeteria while waiting for entry.
- Pushing, running, shouting, horseplay, or cutting the line is not permitted.
- Students must follow all directions given by staff and security personnel during entry procedures.

Seating Expectations

- Students are expected to remain seated during lunch unless given permission by a staff member to leave their seat.

- Students may not move around the cafeteria unnecessarily or visit other tables without permission.
- Saving seats, standing around tables, or gathering in aisles is not permitted.
- Students must use appropriate behavior and maintain respectful interactions with peers and staff.

Behavior and Conduct

- Students must follow all directives from cafeteria staff, teachers, security personnel, and administrators immediately and respectfully.
- Students are expected to maintain an appropriate noise level at all times. Excessive yelling, screaming, or disruptive behavior is not permitted.
- Physical horseplay, throwing objects, inappropriate language, or disruptive conduct will result in disciplinary action.
- Students are expected to treat the cafeteria, furniture, and equipment respectfully and responsibly.

Cleanliness Expectations

- Students are responsible for cleaning their eating area before leaving the cafeteria.
- All trash must be disposed of properly in designated garbage or recycling bins.
- Students should ensure tables, floors, and surrounding areas are left clean for others.
- Intentional messes, food throwing, or vandalism are prohibited.

Leaving the Cafeteria

- Students may not leave the cafeteria without permission from a staff member.
- Students are not permitted to take food or beverages out of the cafeteria unless specifically authorized by school staff.
- At the conclusion of the lunch period, students are expected to exit the cafeteria calmly and report promptly to their next class.

Consequences

Failure to follow cafeteria expectations may result in:

- Verbal warnings
- Assigned seats
- Parent/guardian contact
- Detention or restorative consequences
- Temporary removal from cafeteria privileges

- Additional disciplinary action consistent with the school's code of conduct

The school reserves the right to implement additional procedures or consequences as necessary to maintain a safe and orderly cafeteria environment.