



PATRICE CHERICO

Executive Director

CATHY TOBIN


Principal CASA and IMO

JARED STEWART

Principal High School

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Children need healthy meals to learn. **Innovation Montessori/Innovation Montessori High School** offers healthy meals every school day. Lunch costs **[\$4.90]**. Your children may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. The reduced price is **[\$0.40]** for lunch.

1. **DO I HAVE TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. When you fill out the application to receive free or reduced-price meals, *use the same Application for all students living in your family unit*. We cannot approve any application that is not completely filled out. Therefore, be sure to give all the requested information. Submit the completed application to: **Christine Fernandez, 1644 N. Lakewood Ave, Ocoee, FL 34761, 407-654-2045**.
2. **HOW DO I APPLY FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH?** Please see the instructions included in the application packet.
3. **HOW LONG ARE BENEFITS GOOD FOR?** Benefits are good for the entire school year and the first few weeks of school.
4. **WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?** All children living in households that receive benefits from **[FL SNAP]**, **[the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations]** or **[FL TANF]** can receive free meals, regardless of income. Free meal benefits will be extended to all children in a household when the application lists a SNAP/TANF number. Households with children who are members of currently certified SNAP/TANF households may submit applications for these children with abbreviated information. In addition, your children can receive free meals if their household's gross income is within the limits – on the federal income eligibility table.
5.  **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS?** Read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If you have received A DIRECT CERTIFICATION NOTICE for free meals, **DO NOT fill out** an application. But if you notify the school if any children who live in your home were not included in the **direct certification notice** you received. Call the school at **407-654-2045** if you have any questions.
6. **CAN FOSTER CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE MEALS?** Foster children will receive free meal benefits regardless of the child's personal income or the income of the household where they reside and may be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits. If the foster family is not eligible for free or reduced-price meals, it does not prevent a foster child from receiving free meal benefits.
7. **CAN HOMELESS, FLEEING AND MIGRANT CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE MEALS?** Yes. Children who meet the definition of homelessness, on the run, or migrants qualify for free meals. If you have not been told that your children will receive free meals, please call or email **Christine Fernandez, 1644 N. Lakewood Ave, Ocoee, FL 34761, 407-654-2045** to see if they qualify.



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8. **WHO CAN RECEIVE MEALS AT REDUCED PRICES?** Your children may receive meals at reduced prices if their household income is within the limits set forth in the federal income eligibility table included below:

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART for School Year 2022-2023			
Household size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	25,142	2,096	484
2	33,874	2,823	652
3	42,606	3,551	820
4	51,338	4,279	988
5	60,070	5,006	1,156
6	68,802	5,734	1,324
7	77,534	6,462	1,492
8	86,266	7,189	1,659
Each additional person:	+8,732	+728	+168

9. **MY SON'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I HAVE TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE?** Yes. Your child's application is valid only for that school year and for the first few days of this school year. You must submit a new application unless the school has told you that your child qualifies for the new school year.
10. **RECEIVE BENEFITS FROM THE WIC PROGRAM. CAN MY CHILDREN RECEIVE FREE MEALS?** Children living in family units participating in the WIC program may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Please fill out the application.
11. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE VERIFIED?** Yes, the information submitted on the application may be verified any time during the school year. We may also ask you to submit written evidence.
12. **IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, CAN I APPLY LATER?** Yes. You can apply at any time during the school year. For example, children who have a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free or reduced-price meals if the income of the family unit falls below the income limit.
13. **WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ON MY APPLICATION?** It is in your best interest to talk to school officials. You can also request a hearing by calling or writing to: **David Fishpool, 1644 N. Lakewood Ave, Ocoee, FL 34761, 407-654-2045, dave@innovationmontessori.com.**
14. **CAN I APPLY EVEN IF A MEMBER OF MY FAMILY UNIT IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?** Yes. Neither you nor your children have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
15. **WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY UNIT?** It must include all people living in your family unit, whether or not they are relatives (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends), who share income and expenses. You have to



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include yourself and all the children who live with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people you don't support, who don't share income with you or your children, and who pay a portion of the expenses) don't include them.

16. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT UNIFORM?** Write down the amount you receive regularly. For example, if you regularly earn \$1,000 each month, but last month you didn't work part of the time and only earned \$900, still say you make \$1,000 a month. If you work overtime regularly, include what you earn. Don't include it if you work overtime only a few times. If you lost your job or had your working hours or salary reduced, use your current income.
17. **WE ARE IN THE MILITARY, DO WE INCLUDE OUR HOUSING GRANT AS INCOME?** If you receive a grant to live outside the military base, you have to include it as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include the housing grant as income.
18. **MY SPOUSE IS ON A DEPLOYMENT IN THE COMBAT ZONE. DO YOU COUNT YOUR COMBAT PAY AS INCOME?** No. If you receive combat pay above basic pay due to military deployment and did not receive it before, then it is not counted as income. Contact the school for more information.
19. **WHAT IF MY HOUSEHOLD HAS A DEPLOYED SERVICE MEMBER?** For the purpose of determining household size, deployed service members are considered a part of the household. Families should include the names of the deployed service members on their application. Report only that portion of the deployed service member's income made available to them or on their behalf to the family. The determining official would count the service member as part of the household in establishing a child's eligibility for free and reduced-price meals.
20. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE YOU AND OTHER PROGRAMS WE MAY APPLY FOR?** To see how to apply for **[FL SNAP]** program benefits or other assistance benefits, contact your local support office or call **800-955-8771 and United Way 211.**

If you have any other questions or need help, call **407-654-2045.**

Sincerely,

Christine Fernandez

Nondiscrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the



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Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

mail:

*U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or*

fax:

(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or

email:

program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.