



Maplewood Food Program 2024-2025

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The Maplewood School Council is offering the Food Program for students at all grade levels this year. This is a voluntary program meant to supplement lunches brought from home. It is anticipated to be a major fundraiser for the school.

Click on the frequently asked questions below to be linked to their answer or scroll through the pages to see all the answers.

Any additional questions can be sent to sc-maplewoodss@ocdsb.ca.

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Where can I find a copy of the Food Program calendar, poster or this FAQ document?

You can access these documents in several places:

- Maplewood Council Website: <https://maplewoodsc.schoolsites.ca>
- Files of the 'Maplewood Secondary School (Stittsville) - Parents/Guardians' group on **Facebook**.
- Calendars are also posted in each intermediate classroom and at the front office for your child's reference.

What days do the students receive their food items?

Pizza and Quesadilla days alternate every Tuesday. Donuts are offered on a bi-weekly basis on Thursdays. The food program is not scheduled during school breaks and exam periods. In some rare cases, other days of observance may fall on Tuesdays or Thursdays and the food program will be moved to another day that week. Please see the calendar for any such days.

What time do the students receive their food items?

Intermediate Students: All food program items are delivered to homerooms during the first Nutrition Break. Grade 8s have their eating period during the first 20 minutes of the nutrition break at 10 am (followed by recess). Grade 7s have their eating period during the latter 20 minutes of the first Nutrition break at 10:25 am (preceded by recess).

Secondary Students: All food program items are picked up in the atrium by Grade 9s at the beginning of their Lunch Break at 10:40 am.

What happens to my child's food if they are absent?

Due to food safety regulations and allergies, food cannot be stored at the school for when the student returns, nor designated to another child. Unfortunately, refunds or credits for missed days cannot be issued. Extra food may be consumed by volunteers or staff and will not be wasted.

What happens if a food program falls on a ‘snow day’?

In the event of a board-wide bus cancellation (which many parents and guardians refer to as a ‘snow day’), any food program that falls on such a day will be rescheduled. Even though the school remains open when buses are canceled, with so many student absences and safety of volunteers in mind, it is the School Council policy to cancel the program for the day and move to another date. Please ensure that you pack a full lunch for your child if you are sending them to school on a ‘snow day’. All food programs will be rescheduled to the Friday of the same week. In the event that Friday is a holiday or PA day, the program will be moved to the next day that the school is open following that Friday.

I missed the order deadline. When is the next opportunity to order food?

Cycle 2 ordering closes at 11:59 on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 and cannot be reopened. No exceptions. Food delivery for that cycle will run from April to June 2025. The next opportunity to order food will be the 2025-2026 school year.

Will there be a food program for all grades next year if the cafeteria is open for food service?

This is yet to be determined and Council is having ongoing discussions with the Administration. Please stay tuned for further updates or join us at a Council Meeting for more information or to join the discussion.

Why can't I order food past the deadline or pay week-to-week?

Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate out of cycle ordering. This is for a number of reasons. One, we order through several different external vendors who also collaborate with many school councils who run their own food programs. Two, the food program is coordinated and run entirely by volunteers. Three, the food program involves a complex ordering process and labeling system, with hundreds of pages of class lists used at the school and with the vendors. Taking late orders or allowing students to change up their orders week to week is not manageable at such a large scale given the resources at our disposal.

How does the Council choose which foods to offer?

All schools in Ontario must follow the Government of Ontario's School Food and Beverage Policy, more specifically named the Policy and Program Memorandum 150 (PPM150). It includes nutrition standards for food and beverages sold in schools that are based on Canada's Food Guide. The guidelines in the policy ask schools to offer foods that are healthier in order to enhance student learning and success. Maplewood selects vendors that meet these requirements. This is why, for example, we offer breads and crusts that are whole wheat versus white or limit the meat and sauce options from vendors to lower fat choices only.

Is any assistance available to students who cannot afford the food program?

Please reach out to the principal at Krista.Hudson@ocdsb.ca if you are experiencing financial hardship but would like to order items from the food program. The Principal will work with the Office Administrator who manages School Cash Online to ensure all requests are handled discreetly so that no other staff, food program lead, volunteers or students are aware of any assistance provided. Class order lists will not have any identifying information indicating that a student is receiving financial assistance.

How can I help?

If you would like more information on volunteering to distribute food items, please reach out to sc-maplewoodss@ocdsb.ca. The volunteer schedule and sign up are managed through Signup.com. When there are vacancies, the link to sign up will be sent out via the Principal weekly update email. You are welcome to volunteer regularly or on a one-time or occasional basis.

If you would like to make a donation to support a child at Maplewood who may not be able to afford the food program, a secure online donation can be made through the OCDSB's website: <https://give.stratly.com/maplewood-ss/campaigns/general-donations>. The amount is customizable so you can donate as much or as little as you like. Please indicate in the "Comments" portion of the form that your donation is for "Food Program family in need". Tax-receipts are automatically issued electronically. Please reach out to sc-maplewoodss@ocdsb.ca for more information.