

Breakfast in the Classroom!

Dear Thunderbird Families,

We want to thank you for your feedback regarding Universal Breakfast, or Breakfast in Class (BIC). After tallying all the survey results, more than 85% of families supported implementing BIC next year. As a result, we will start Breakfast in the Classroom starting next school year in August 2017! There were many great comments and concerns that parents expressed, and we wanted to take a moment to answer them.

1 Cafeteria staff arrive on campus and prepare breakfast. Special coolers will be set outside each classroom with enough food and beverages for each student and the teacher.

2 Teachers open their doors between 7:30-7:35. Students put their things away, pick up their breakfast, and go to their seat. Parent volunteers can assist students with serving food and opening items for students.

3 At 8:00, students collect their trash. The trash bag and coolers are placed in the hallway to be picked up. Under the supervision of their teacher and/or parent volunteers, students will wipe down tables and clean their area.

K-5th grade students arriving before 7:30 will go to the gym to wait to be picked up and taken to class. PK students will go to the cafeteria to their class's assigned table and will eat their breakfast in the cafeteria.

Q: Does my child have to eat breakfast at school? I'm concerned my child will feel left out if they don't.

A: Your child can eat breakfast at home or join their classmates. Morning meetings and SEL will end at 8 am, and since students have to be in the classroom by 7:45 regardless, students won't be missing out on SEL content or singled out for not eating. We do encourage you to participate, though!

Q: If breakfast starts at 7:30, does school start earlier?

A: Our official start time doesn't change and students will still be counted tardy after 7:45. Classrooms will open between 7:30-7:35 for students to come in and begin breakfast.

Q: Do I have to pay anything?

A: BIC is free to all students and teachers, regardless of income or background!

Q: Breakfast is the one consistent meal time that I spend with my children. Will I still get to eat breakfast with them?

A: Unfortunately, Breakfast in Class means parents won't be able to eat breakfast with their students in the cafeteria. Parents can still eat breakfast at home with their students if they choose, as long as students still get to school on time. Parents can sign up to volunteer to help with BIC and have an opportunity to visit with their students during breakfast time. We will have two volunteers per class that change each week to give all parents a chance to help!

Q: Teachers already have enough on their plates. Won't this add more work?

A: When considering BIC, we spoke with Food Service and other schools that have BIC. While new processes always require an adjustment period, there are many pieces in the process to assist the teachers. Additionally, BIC has many benefits that will ultimately decrease stress levels and workloads for teachers in the long run, improve academics and focus, and build positive classroom relationships.

Q: I'm concerned about the food quality. I feel the food being served is low in nutritional content and isn't healthy.

A: AISD's Food Service Director, Anneliese Tanner, has worked to address food quality being served to students. Whole grains, lean proteins, fresh fruit (at least 3 times a week), 100% juice, and milk. Local items are offered when available and all breakfast foods are clean label. Vegetarian options are also available, and parents can request accommodations for students with food allergies or dietary restrictions.

Q: My child has a food allergy. How will the school make sure my child is safe?

A: AISD Food Service has multiple ways to address allergies in the classroom. Additionally, part of the BIC routine is students cleaning their eating spaces, with teachers overseeing the process. In this way, we ensure that the classroom is clean, safe, and ready for learning! If your child has a food allergy or dietary restriction, please make sure to check in with the office staff and the nurse before school starts August 21st so we can make proper accommodations.

Q: Won't having breakfast in class attract rodents and other pests?

A: Some parents are concerned that having food in the classroom will attract rodents and pests, but the majority of the classrooms already have snacks in the classroom. Breakfast food is in the classroom for a short while and part of the BIC morning routine involves all food trash being placed outside the door and surfaces cleaned thoroughly before the day starts. It is our hope that implementing BIC will eliminate the need for snacks and subsequently, pests.

Q: How will BIC affect Friday assemblies?

A: Starting in Fall 2017, Friday Assemblies will be taking place only once a month for each grade level. On those days that your child's class has assembly, BIC will begin immediately after the assembly has ended.

We hope that this information has helped clarify things regarding BIC. Should you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to let us know! The process may be a little rough to implement at first, but ultimately we believe this is a great choice for all of our students. We look forward to seeing you in August!

