

Some FAQs About the POS System at McCall **Thanks to Kevin Silvia, Food Service Director, Whitsons Culinary Group**

This information is current as of April 30, 2009. The capabilities of the on-line payment system continue to evolve. We will try to keep this information updated on the web site and to publish updates in the McCall Parents Association newsletters.

What is the POS system?

The “POS” (“Point of Sale” system) is a computerized system, purchased by the Winchester School Department and managed by Whitsons, which students use to pre-pay for their food without the need for cash or meal tickets. Money is deposited into a student’s account, and these stored amounts are available for purchases.

How does it work?

Each student has been assigned a four-digit number. Parents and students pre-pay by depositing funds into their accounts. **The use of this program is mandatory** effective September, 2008.

At lunch time, the student chooses his or her meal and enters the 4 digit PIN code on the keypad at the cashier. The cost of the food is deducted from the student’s account.

Eligibility for free and reduced priced meals is also entered into the computer so that students are charged appropriately. This information is completely confidential.

Why did McCall implement the POS system?

1. To make the lines move faster in the face of increasing enrollment.
2. To preserve the privacy of students who receive free and reduced-price lunches.
3. To reduce the need for students to carry cash which might be lost or mis-used.

How do I put money in my child's account?

There are two ways of depositing money into your child’s account. You or your student may deposit funds (cash or check payable to Winchester School Lunch Program) with the Cafeteria Supervisor for Whitsons, who will be available every Wednesday from 7:00 a.m. until 7:40 a.m. in the cafeteria.

The School Department has added an online payment system (payforit.net) effective September, 2008. This system allows you to add funds to your student’s account and check his or her account balance at any time. To set up an online account you need a valid email address, a credit card, and your student’s Student Identification Number sent to you by the School is late August. (**Please note** that the identification number is different than the 4-digit PIN that your student uses to purchase food.)

To sign up for an account, go to payforit.net, click on “Sign Up for an Account” in the box on the upper right, and follow the instructions. The site has a FAQ section to answer your questions.

How long does it take for a deposit to show up in my child's lunch account?

Deposits made in person are reflected immediately. Deposits made on payforit.net before midnight are generally reflected the following business day.

What if my child forgets his or her PIN?

Cashiers have the ability to search for a child's account by name. Students are encouraged to learn their PINs to reduce delays. Cashiers may ask students to obtain their PIN numbers from the Office.

How do I know if their balance is running low?

Cashiers will notify students that their balances are running low. You should encourage your child to ask as well. If you are using payforit.net you may establish a recurring payment to replenish your account via credit card when your child's balance falls below a pre-selected level, and you may sign up to receive emails alerting you to low balances and/or monthly reminders of your account balance, . See payforit.net for more details.

If they run out of money can they still eat?

Yes! The system can "go negative" but students are expected to bring payment the following school day. (This is an exception to the Wednesday deposit schedule; payment for students with negative balances will be accepted on any school day.)

Can I find out what my child is eating?

Activity reports for your student(s) are available by contacting Kevin Silvia, Food Services Director, at 721-7033. If you are using payforit.net, you may request an activity report on-line that shows activity for the previous 30 days.

What happens to money left over in my child's account at the end of the school year?

Amounts deposited to your child's account will follow him or her from year to year at McCall and on to the High School. Funds can also be transferred to siblings. If you are leaving the Winchester Public School system and have a significant balance remaining, you should contact Sam Rippin, Director of Finance for the schools, for information concerning the refund policy.

What happens if someone else uses my child's account?

The system stores photographs of each child to reduce the possibility of mis-use of a student's PIN. If you believe that your child's account is being used by another student, contact Kevin Silvia at 721-7033.