**What is this?**

It is a new computerized debiting system that allows parents to pay for student lunches in advance in essence giving your child an electronic lunch ticket.

**How does it work?**

You can pay for as many lunches in advance for your child as you wish – up to an entire school year. These funds will be deposited into a debit account for your child to use at lunchtime.

**How does my child use his account?**

Computer terminals/registers have been installed at the end of each line. When your child selects his lunch, he pushes in his 4 digit PIN into a key pad right at the terminal. His name comes up with a balance amount available. The cashier enters what has been purchased and the program automatically subtracts and computes the new balance for the following day. The PIN is given to the student when they first enroll into Newton and the number remains the same throughout their years at Newton.

**What happens when my account runs low?**

The cashier will give your child a pink reminder note to tell you your account is running low. Simply return it to school the following Monday with a check to be deposited to the account.

**Does my child have to use this system?**

No, it is strictly up to you. Your child can pay cash at the register each day. The system has been installed as a convenience for children who no longer will have to bring money to school each day and lose all or part of it. It reduces the hassle for parents to remember to give kids their lunch money each day as well.

**What happens if my child’s account has no balance and we have forgotten to send in a check to replenish the account?**

The Principal has decided that Elementary students may charge their lunch but must pay that charge back as soon as possible. A note will be sent home to parents as a reminder.

**What happens if someone else uses my child’s PIN number?**

Students may use ONLY their assigned numbers. Each account has a photo of the child to further insure the correct student is using the account. Using someone else’s or trying to randomly generate a number will be considered THEFT and dealt with according to School and District Policies and Procedures.

**Do I as a parent have any control over what my child purchases?**

Yes, you have some control. You can indicate if you want a deposit for “cash on account” which gives freedom to your child to use the account for lunches, extra milk, entrees, etc. Your student’s screen will flag the cashier when the PIN # is entered. You can even tell us to flag “NO SNACKS ALLOWED” on your childs account. But you may send cash and a note when your child is allowed to purchase extras. If you request for “NO SNACKS ALLOWED” then your child’s account will stay that way for the entire school year and may be changed only with a parent phone call.

**My child receives lunch at a “reduced rate”. Does the system know?**

Yes, all information regarding students receiving free or reduced lunches had been downloaded into the system and accounts will be handled the same as others. Students will need to enter their PIN #’s just like everyone else which helps to insure they are not singled out in any way. Only the cashier knows who are receiving federally subsidized lunches.

**What if I move and have money in the system?**

You may request a refund.

**What happens at the end of the school year?**

Funds in the system can be rolled over to the next year. We will not be giving refunds at the end of the year.

Thank you!

Teresa Alexander
Cafeteria Manager