



WEST ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL

September, 5, 2024

Subject: Clarification on Lunch Block Procedures

Dear Mountaineer Parents,

I wanted to take a moment to address some recent discussions circulating on social media regarding our new lunch block procedures. It's important to clarify these changes to ensure everyone understands how we're striving to maintain a safe and supportive environment for our students.

First and foremost, let me assure you that **no student will ever be denied access to the cafeteria during lunchtime**. Contrary to some claims, all students have the opportunity to enjoy their lunch if they choose to do so.

Our aim is to create a setting that is both safe and conducive to learning, especially during our common lunch block when over 2100 students are navigating their lunch hour. To manage this effectively, we've introduced a new practice.

At the beginning of the lunch block, students have about 20 minutes to make their way to the cafeteria. Once there, a signal prompts students to remain in that area for the duration of lunch unless they have a valid reason to leave, such as meeting with a teacher, participating in a club activity, or using the library.

Students who are delayed due to a class or activity will still have access to the cafeteria to get their lunch. There is no strict deadline for entering the lunchrooms.

It's important to note that no student is being prevented from accessing lunch. Our goal is to reduce hallway congestion and minimize disruptions during this time, while ensuring a safe and orderly environment for everyone.

For students with labs during lunch, accommodations are made to ensure they have access to both their lab and the cafeteria as needed.



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This new approach is still in its early stages, and we will continue to monitor and adjust as necessary to best serve our students. Feedback from our community is valuable, and we are committed to refining our procedures to improve the overall experience.

I hope this explanation clarifies any misunderstandings and assures you that our priority remains providing every student with a supportive and nourishing environment. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Warm regards,

Oscar Guerrero