



Mustang Messenger

August 2024

Welcome from Deanna Wiatt, Superintendent

How to Contact

Melrose-Mindoro
School District

N181 ST RD 108
Melrose, WI 54642
608-488-2201
608-857-3410

FAX: 608-488-2805

School Start/End Times

7:55 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Note new start time!!

Dear Melrose-Mindoro Community Members,

As we embark on a new school year, I am excited and optimistic about the journey ahead. I hope this message finds you all in good health and spirits and that you have enjoyed a few relaxing moments with your family and friends over the summer. With the beginning of the academic year upon us in a few short weeks, I am turning our focus to the theme of **BALANCE**.

Finding balance is more important than ever in a world that often feels fast-paced and demanding. Balance is not just about managing our time and money; it's about nurturing our well-being, fostering strong relationships, and creating an environment where every student, staff member, and community member can thrive.

For Our Students: Balance means finding the connection between academic responsibilities and personal interests. We encourage our students to engage in diverse activities, pursue their passions, and take time for self-care. We know that a well-rounded education involves academics, extracurricular activities, and social interactions. Our aim is to provide opportunities that allow students to explore their interests while maintaining a successful life balance.

For Our Staff: Balance involves maintaining a fulfilling professional life while also prioritizing personal well-being. Our educators are the backbone of our district, and their dedication to our students is unparalleled. This year, we are committed to providing resources and support to help our staff achieve a healthy balance. Professional development, mental health resources, and collaborative planning time are just a few of the initiatives we will focus on.

For Our Families: Balance means being involved in your child's education while also taking time for yourself. We understand that you play a vital role in your child's academic journey and are grateful for your continued support. Families are one of the strongest pillars in your student's lives, and we encourage open communication and collaboration between home and school to ensure our students successfully reach their full potential.

For Our Community: Balance is about creating a supportive environment where everyone feels valued. We are fortunate to be part of a community that cares deeply about education and the well-being of our students. The district strives to be the community's hub for any needs that arise; however, the district relies on community partnerships to support the growth of our students. This balance is essential for both our community and the district, and I encourage you to actively engage with us, sharing your insights, ideas, and concerns. We rely on your support!

For Our Budget: Balance means working hard to be fiscally responsible with the funding provided to our district. We strive to run a balanced budget; however, due to declining enrollment and significant grant funding going away this past year, we find ourselves starting this school year in a deficit. This is the first time in many years. The deficit doesn't mean we have not been good stewards of our finances over the years; in fact, the leaders have done an excellent job in this area without running an operating referendum since 2011, unlike other districts across Wisconsin that have had to do this more often. As we navigate these waters, we will continue to look for ways to increase revenue while decreasing as many expenditures as possible.

The district has increased revenue in many ways, including changing some existing programs to better serve our students and their families. For example, we have found creative ways to increase our summer school minutes, which, in turn, has slightly increased
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Free /Reduced Lunch Applications

Exciting news! ALL students will receive breakfast in the 24-25 school year at NO CHARGE. You will need to complete a free /reduced lunch application to determine eligibility for lunch. (See the FAQ guide located in this newsletter). An application packet has been sent to families with valid email addresses on file with the school. If you did not receive a packet, please call your child's school office to request a paper copy or print forms located on the school website.

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our district funding. We have also changed to a full-time 4K program, resulting in 14 more students than last year. We will continue to search for other ways to increase our revenue, including applying for more grants when they become available.

Beginning this school year with a deficit meant we had to reduce the number of full-time staff members by 4.5 positions. We have also had to decide to charge a fee for our Before and After-School Care for our families, similar to the other area school districts. Our staff also took a cut in their benefits for the first time in several years. This budget decision was difficult for the district because we want to continue to be competitive with the other school districts around us and retain all the talented staff we have at this time. We appreciate and are incredibly proud of our staff, who have dedicated themselves to Melrose-Mindoro to positively impact our students in countless ways, and want to keep them. They are a large part of how our small district can offer excellent programs that lead to big futures for our students.

As a district, we will continue to search for creative ways to increase revenue and decrease expenditures; however, we currently have a projected deficit for the next couple of years. If you have any thoughts or ideas on how we can reduce our deficit, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to connect with any of our school board members or me to share your ideas. We value your input!

As we move forward, let us keep **BALANCE** at the forefront of our minds and strive to create an environment where academic excellence and personal growth coexist. Together, we can make this school year one of growth, learning, and fulfillment for everyone. Thank you again for your community partnership throughout this journey and for working together as we live out our mission of **KIDS Come First!**

I wish you all a balanced and fulfilling year ahead!

Deanna Wiatt, Melrose-Mindoro School District Superintendent

BACK TO SCHOOL 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR INFORMATION

PARENT PORTAL

With the improvements being made to our online capabilities, please make sure you have your Infinite Campus Parent Portal activated. You will need this to utilize the new online payments system, registration and update end of day changes. If you don't have this activated, please reach out to the office at: parker.chelsea@mel-min.k12.wi.us

OPEN HOUSE

Please join us on August 21st from 3pm-8pm for our Open House where you will be able to:

- Meet Your Child's Teacher: Get to know your new teacher and learn about the exciting plans for the year ahead.
- Finalize Transportation and Before/After-School Plans: Confirm your child's transportation arrangements and learn more about our new before/after school care program- Mustang Youth Club.
- Take School Pictures: Have your child's photo taken for the yearbook and school records.
- Meet with the Nurse: If needed, discuss any health concerns or medical information with our school nurse.
- Collect School Supplies: If you ordered your child's school supplies from the School Box Kit's site be sure to stop in the Elementary Office to pick up your supply box.



For the past three years, we have offered Before and After School Care for free because of the ESSER

funding from the State. Because this money is no longer available, we will need to begin to charge a monthly fee for our Before and After School Care program. We will charge \$175/child per month with a 15% family discount for two or more enrolled children. Our coordinator is still working on other details about part-time and drop-in fees. This program will be open for 4K through 8th-grade students and will include great daily activities and a free snack. Please look for more details about this program and how to register for it over the next couple of weeks.

Sign up for *rSchool* for latest event Information



Set yourself up to receive automatic text and email notifications for schedule changes and reminders for those activities you want to track. Go to www.mel-min.k12.wi.us and click 'Athletics and Activities' under the Quick Links. On the next page, below the calendar, you will have the option to get the mobile app and/or sign up for alerts under 'Notify Me'. You can track specific activities and log back in anytime to modify your settings. Simple and FREE!

Universal Free Breakfast for Students in 2024-2025

What is Universal Free Breakfast? Universal Free Breakfast means that students receive a FREE breakfast regardless of their payment status (free/reduced/full pay). Every breakfast is balanced with choices of whole-grain foods, protein, fruit, 100% fruit juice & milk.

Who can participate in Universal Free Breakfast? All KG-12th grade students in the Melrose-Mindoro School District can receive a free breakfast every day of the school year.

What do I need to do so my child can participate in Universal Free Breakfast? Nothing. There is no sign-up form required. Simply send your child to school, and he or she can receive a free breakfast.

If my child participates in Universal Free Breakfast, does he or she automatically qualify for free or reduced-price lunch? Not necessarily. A free or reduced-priced application still must be filled out to determine lunch payment status.

Check District Website for Forms

Many of our forms can be found on our district website: www.mel-min.k12.wi.us such as the 24-25 Supply Lists, lunch application (English & Spanish versions) and the school calendar. Please call the school to request a paper copy of any of these forms.

Bridging Brighter Smiles

Bridging Brighter Smiles is in our district and provides basic dental health for students. This program is open to all students in the district 4K-12th grade. Visits are held throughout the school year and services include oral screening, cleanings, fluoride varnish applications, dental sealants, dental health education and referral assistance.

To enroll your children, go to <https://enrollment.bbsmiles.org> to complete an enrollment form online! Bridging Brighter Smiles accepts Forward Health (BadgerCare). They do not bill or accept other private dental insurances. Questions? Call 262-896-9891 or visit them on the web at www.bbsmiles.org



	Breakfast	Lunch
KG-6th Gr.	FREE	2.60
7-8th Gr.	FREE	2.80
9-12th Gr.	FREE	2.95
Adults	2.80	4.25
Milk (extra)	.40	.40

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE AND REDUCED PRICE SCHOOL MEALS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2024-2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Children need healthy meals to learn. Melrose-Mindoro School District offers healthy meals every school day. **There is no charge for breakfast this year for ALL students. Lunch costs \$2.60 for KG-6th Gr.; \$2.80 for 7-8th Gr; \$2.95 for 9-12th Gr.** Your children may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals. Reduced price is **\$.40** for lunch. This packet includes an application for free or reduced price meal benefits, and a set of detailed instructions. Below are some common questions and answers to help you with the application process.

1. WHO CAN GET FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from FoodShare, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), or W-2 cash benefits are eligible for free meals, when listed on the application.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals.
- Children may qualify to receive free or reduced price meals if your household's income is at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines.

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART For School Year 2024-25			
Household size	Yearly (\$)	Monthly (\$)	Weekly (\$)
1	27,861	2,322	536
2	37,814	3,152	728
3	47,767	3,981	919
4	57,720	4,810	1,110
5	67,673	5,640	1,302
6	77,626	6,469	1,493
7	87,579	7,299	1,685
8	97,532	8,128	1,876
Each additional person:	9,953	830	192

2. **HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILDREN QUALIFY AS HOMELESS, MIGRANT, OR RUNAWAY?** Do the members of your household lack a permanent address? Are you staying together in a shelter, hotel, or other temporary housing arrangement? Does your family relocate on a seasonal basis? Are any children living with you who have chosen to leave their prior family or household? If you believe children in your household meet these descriptions and have not been told your children will get free meals, please call or e-mail lupient.malena@mel-min.k12.wi.us.
3. **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?** No. Use one *Free and Reduced Price School Meals Application* for all students in your household. We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to **Sarah McAdams, N181 St. Hwy 108, Melrose, WI 54642** or mcadams@mel-min.k12.wi.us
4. **SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR FREE OR REDUCED PRICE MEALS?** Please read the letter you received carefully and follow the instructions. If your letter indicated you qualify for free meals, then no application is needed. If any children in your household were missing from your eligibility notification, contact **Sarah McAdams, N181 St. Hwy 108, Melrose, WI 54642** or mcadams@mel-min.k12.wi.us immediately. If your household was notified it qualified for reduced price meals, we encourage you to complete an application to potentially qualify for free meals based on household size and income.

5. **MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT A NEW ONE?** Yes. Your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first few days of this school year, through **October 10, 2024**, or when a new eligibility is determined. You must submit a new application unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not submit a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price for meals.
6. **I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS?** Children in households participating in WIC may be eligible for free or reduced price meals, but it is based on income. Please submit an application.
7. **MY CHILD PARTICIPATES IN BADGERCARE PLUS OR MEDICAID. CAN MY CHILD GET FREE MEALS?** Children participating in Badgercare Plus or Medicaid may be eligible for free or reduced price meals, but it is based on income. Please submit an application.
8. **WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED?** Yes. We may also ask you to send written proof of the household income you report.
9. **IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER?** Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed or experience a financial hardship may become eligible for free and reduced price meals if the household income drops below the income limit.
10. **WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION?** You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: **Sarah McAdams, N181 St. Hwy 108, Melrose, WI 54642** or **mcadams@mel-min.k12.wi.us**.
11. **MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN?** Yes. You, your children, or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to apply for free or reduced price meals.
12. **WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME?** List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
13. **WHAT IF SOME HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS HAVE NO INCOME TO REPORT?** Household members may not receive some types of income we ask you to report on the application, or may not receive income at all. Whenever this happens, please write a 0 in the field. However, if any income fields are left empty or blank, those will also be counted as zeroes. Please be careful when leaving income fields blank, as we will assume you meant to do so.
14. **WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY?** Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, or clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Do not include any combat pay resulting from deployment as income.
15. **WHAT IF THERE IS NOT ENOUGH SPACE ON THE APPLICATION FOR MY FAMILY?** List any additional household members on a separate piece of paper and attach it to your application.
16. **MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR?** To find out how to apply for FoodShare or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-362-3002.
17. **IF THIS APPLICATION IS APPROVED WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE SUMMER EBT BENEFITS?** Yes. An approved Household Application for Free or Reduced Priced Meals qualifies your household for Summer EBT benefits. More information is available at <https://dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition/programs/SummerEBT>.

If you have other questions or need help, call 608-488-2201 ext. 1156

Sarah McAdams

APPLY ONLINE: NA

2024-25 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

RETURN TO (School/District Name): Melrose-Mindoro School District
ADDRESS: N181 State Highway 108, Melrose, WI 54642

Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil). In Community Eligibility Provision Schools (CEP), receipt of free meals does not depend on returning this application; however, this information is necessary for other programs.

STEP 1 List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12. Attach another sheet of paper if you need space for more names.

List ALL children in the household. Do not forget to list infants, children attending other schools, children not in school, and children not applying for benefits. This includes children not related to you in your household.

Child's First Name	MI	Child's Last Name	Grade	Foster Child	Migrant	Runaway	Homeless

If you checked any of these boxes, please refer to the Application Instruction's Step 1: Part C & Part D.

Check all that apply

STEP 2 Do any household members (including you) participate in: FoodShare (SNAP), W-2 Cash Benefits (TANF), or FDIPIR?

☐ NO → Go to STEP 3. ☐ YES → Write case number here and proceed to STEP 4.

PROGRAM NAME: CASE NUMBER (NOT EBT NUMBER):

Badgercare, Medicaid, Summer EBT are not eligible. Write only one case number in this space.

STEP 3 List ALL household members and income for each member (before taxes and deductions)

A. All Adult Household Members (Anyone who is living with you and shares income and expenses, even if not related, including you.)

List all Adult Household Members not listed in STEP 1 (including yourself) even if they do not receive income. For each Household Member listed, if they receive income, report total gross income (before taxes and deductions) for each source in whole dollars (no cents) only. If they do not receive income from any source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of Adult Household Members (First and Last)	How often received?			Earnings from Work	How often received?			Public Assistance, Child Support, Allimony	How often received?			Pensions, Retirement, Social Security, VA Benefits, All Other	How often received?		
	Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Monthly		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Monthly		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Monthly		Weekly	Every 2 Weeks	Monthly

Required: Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

Required: Last Four Numbers of Social Security Number (SSN) of Primary Wage Earner or Adult Household Member or Check Box if No SSN

Check Box if No Social Security Number

How often received?

Child Income

B. Child Income

Sometimes children in the household earn or receive income. Include the TOTAL income (before taxes and deductions) received by ALL children listed in STEP 1 here.

Required: Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

Child Income

Required: Signature of Adult

Today's Date

STEP 4 Contact information and adult signature. RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL: Insert school address here N181 State Highway 108, Melrose, WI 54642

"I certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that school officials may verify (confirm) the information. I am aware that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."

Print Name of Adult Signing the Form

Mailing Address (if available)

City

State

Zip

Phone (optional)

Email (optional)

SOURCES AND EXAMPLES OF INCOME

For additional information on income, please refer to the instructions that accompany this application.

Sources of Income		Examples of Income for Children
Earnings from Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salary, wages, cash bonuses, tips, commissions Net income from self-employment (farm or business) 	Public Assistance/Alimony/Child Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment benefits Worker's compensation Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cash assistance from State or local government Alimony payments Child support payments Veterans benefits Strike benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits A parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits A friend or extended family member regularly gives a child spending money A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust
If you are in the U.S. Military: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic pay and cash bonuses (do NOT include combat pay, FSSA, or privatized housing allowances) Allowances for off-base housing, food, and clothing 	Pensions/Retirement/All other sources of income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Security/Disability (including railroad retirement and black lung benefits) Private Pensions or disability benefits Income from trusts or estates Annuities Investment income Earned interest Rental income Regular cash payments from outside household 	

OPTIONAL

Children's ethnic and racial identities. This information is kept confidential and may be protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity (check one): ☐ Hispanic or Latino (A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish Culture or origin, regardless of race) ☐ Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (check one or more): ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White

Return this completed form to your child's school. *Do not mail, fax, or email completed applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

DO NOT FILL OUT

For school use only. If all students listed on this application attend CEP schools, the processing of this application cannot be paid for by the nonprofit school food service account.

Annual Income Conversion: Weekly $\times 52$, Every 2 Weeks $\times 26$, Twice a Month $\times 24$, Monthly $\times 12$. Do not annualize income to determine eligibility unless more than one income frequency is listed.

Total Income	How often?				Household size	Categorical Eligibility <input type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility	
	Weekly <input type="radio"/>	Every 2 Weeks <input type="radio"/>	Twice a Month <input type="radio"/>	Monthly <input type="radio"/>				Annual <input type="radio"/>
Determining Official's Signature	Date				Confirming Official's Signature	Date	Verifying Official's Signature	Date

Use of Information Statement

The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires that we use information from this application to see who qualifies for free or reduced price meals. We can only approve complete forms. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them deliver program benefits to your household. Inspectors and law enforcement may also use your information to make sure that program rules are met. Please be sure to provide the last four numbers of the Social Security number of the adult household member who signs the application. If the adult does not have one, Check if no Social Security Number. Applications for a foster child do not need to list a Social Security number. Applications for children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) do not need to list a Social Security number. Some children qualify for free meals without an application. Please contact your school to get free meals for a foster child, and children who are homeless, migrant, or runaway.

The contact information below is solely to file a complaint of discrimination

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

*MAIL: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

FAX: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
EMAIL: program.intake@usda.gov

*Do not mail applications to this address, only complaints of discrimination.

Return completed form to your child's school.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

How To Apply for Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Please use these instructions to help you fill out the application for free and reduced price school meals. You only need to submit one application per household, **even if your children attend more than one school in the Melrose-Mindoro School District.**

The application must be filled out completely to determine the eligibility of your child(ren) for free or reduced price school meals. Please follow these instructions in order! Each step of the instructions is the same as the steps on your application. If at any time you are not sure what to do next, please contact Sarah McAdams, Food Service Director, 608-488-2201 ext 1156, mcadams@mel-min.k12.wi.us

Please use a pen (not a pencil) when filling out the application and do your best to print clearly.

Step 1: List ALL children, infants, and students up to and including grade 12

Tell us how many infants/toddlers, children not in school, and elementary/middle/high school students live in your household. They do NOT have to be related to you to be a part of your household.

Who should I list here? When filling out this section, please include ALL members in your household who are:

- Children age 18 or under AND are supported with the household's income;
- In your care under a formal foster arrangement through a court or state/local agency, or qualify as homeless, migrant, or runaway youth;
- Students attending (regardless of age) Melrose-Mindoro School District

A) List each child's name. Print each child's name. Use one line of the application for each child. When printing names, write one letter in each box. Stop if you run out of space. If there are more children present than lines on the application, attach a second piece of paper (or a second application if completing electronically) with all required information for the additional children. This also applies to adults in Step 3. "MI" is short for middle initial. Print the first letter of each child's middle name in the box.

B) Is the child a student? If "Yes," write the grade level of the student in the "Grade" column to the right.

C) Do you have any foster children? If any children listed are foster children, mark the "Foster Child" box next to the child's name. If you are ONLY applying for foster children, after finishing **Step 1**, go to **Step 4**.

Foster children who live with you may count as members of your household and should be listed on your application. If you are applying for both foster and non-foster children, go to Step 3. Note: Adopted children are not considered foster children. A foster child is a minor child who has been taken into state custody and placed with a state-licensed adult, who cares for the child in place of their parent or guardian.

D) Are any children homeless, migrant, or runaway? If you believe any child listed in this section meets this description, mark the "Homeless, Migrant, Runaway" box next to the child's name and complete all steps of the application. Homeless, Migrant, Runaway status must be confirmed with the appropriate program staff. If the school district cannot confirm your student's homeless, migrant, or runaway status, then the school district will contact you to complete an income-based application. You may choose to provide income information now in order to prevent the school district from potentially needing to contact you later.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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Step 2: Do any household members currently participate in SNAP, TANF, or FDIPIR?

If anyone in your household (including you) currently participates in one or more of the assistance programs listed below, your children are eligible for free school meals:

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or FoodShare
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or W-2 Cash Benefits
- The Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR).

A) If no one in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Check "No" in **Step 2** and go to **Step 3**.

B) If anyone in your household participates in any of the above listed programs:

- Write a case number for SNAP, TANF, or FDIPIR. You only need to provide one case number. If you participate in one of these programs and do not know your case number, contact: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forwardhealth/imagency/index.htm>
- Go to **Step 4**.

Step 3: List ALL household members and income for each member

How do I report my income?

- Use the lists titled "Sources of Income" & "Examples of Income for Children," on the back side of the application form to determine if your household has income to report.
- Report all amounts in GROSS INCOME ONLY. Report all income in whole dollars. Do not include cents.
 - Gross income is the total income received **before** taxes and deductions.
 - Many people think of income as the amount they "take home" and not the total, "gross" amount. Make sure that the income you report on this application has NOT been reduced to pay for taxes, insurance premiums, or any other amounts taken from your pay.
- Write a "0" in any fields where there is no income to report. Any income fields left empty or blank will also be counted as a zero. If you write "0" or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report. If local officials suspect that your household income was reported incorrectly, your application will be investigated.
- Mark how often each type of income is received using the check boxes to the right of each field.

3.A. Report income earned by adults

Who should I list here?

- When filling out this section, please include ALL adult members in your household who are living with you and share income and expenses, even if they are not related and even if they do not receive income of their own.
- **Do NOT include:**
 - People who live with you but are not supported by your household's income AND do not contribute income to your household.
 - Infants, children and students already listed in **Step 1**.

Step 3: List ALL household members and income for each member

1) List adult household members' names.

Print the name of each household member in the boxes marked "Names of Adult Household Members (First and Last)." Include college students, unless they are declared independently on taxes (all college students are considered adults). Do not list any household members you listed in Step 1.

2) List earnings from work.

List all income from work in the "Earnings from Work" field on the application. This is usually the money received from working at jobs. If you are a self-employed business or farm owner, you will report your net income. Net income is your income after taxes and deductions have been subtracted.

- **What if I have multiple jobs?** List each job separately by entering your name and income from each job on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary.
- **What if I am self-employed?** List income from your business as a net amount. This net amount is calculated by subtracting the total operating expenses of your business from its gross receipts (revenue). Gross receipts or revenue are all the income earned from the sale of any products or services offered.

If a child listed in Step 1 has income, follow the instructions in Step 3, Part B.

3) List income from public assistance/child support/alimony.

List all income that applies in the "Public Assistance/Child Support/Alimony" field on the application. Do not report the cash value of any public assistance benefits NOT listed on the chart. If income is received from child support or alimony, only report court-ordered payments. Informal but regular payments should be reported as "other" income in the next part.

4) List income from pensions/retirement/all other income.

List all income that applies in the "Pensions/Retirement/All Other Income" field on the application.

- **What if I receive income from multiple sources in this category?** List each source separately by entering your name and income from each source on a new line. Add an additional sheet of paper if necessary.

5) List total household size.

Enter the total number of household members in the field "Total Household Members (Children and Adults)." This number MUST be equal to the number of household members listed in Step 1 and Step 3. If there are any members of your household that you have not listed on the application, go back and add them. It is very important to list all household members, as the size of your household affects your eligibility for free and reduced price meals.

6) Provide the last four digits of your Social Security Number.

An adult household member must enter the last four digits of their Social Security Number in the space provided. You are eligible to apply for benefits even if you do not have a Social Security Number. If no adult household members have a Social Security Number, leave this space blank and mark the box to the right labeled "Check if no Social Security Number."

3.B List income earned by children

List all income earned or received by children.

List the combined gross income for ALL children listed in Step 1 in your household in the box marked "Child Income." Only count foster children's income if you are applying for them together with the rest of your household.

- **What is Child Income?** Child income is money received from outside your household that is paid DIRECTLY to your children. Many households do not have any child income.

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Step 4: Contact information and adult signature

All applications must be signed by an adult member of the household. By signing the application, that household member is promising that all information has been truthfully and completely reported. Before completing this section, please also make sure you have read the statements on the back of the application.

A) Provide your contact information. Write your current mailing address in the fields provided, if this information is available. If you have no permanent address, that is okay. Sharing a phone number, email address, or both is optional, but helps us reach you quickly if we need to contact you.

B) Print and sign your name and write today's date. Print the name of the adult signing the application and that person signs in the box "Signature of adult."

C) Mail completed application to:
Melrose-Mindoro School District
Attn: Sarah McAdams
N181 St. Hwy 108
Melrose, WI 54642

Optional

Share children's racial and ethnic identities (optional). On the back of the application, we ask you to share information about your children's race and ethnicity. This field is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price school meals. This information is requested solely for the purpose of determining the State's compliance with Federal civil rights laws, and your response will not affect consideration of your application, and may be protected by the Privacy Act. By providing this information, you will assist us in assuring that this program is administered in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Please return the application directly to your child's SCHOOL. DO NOT mail, fax, or email completed applications or questions about applications to the USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights or your child's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals will be delayed.

4

ANNUAL NOTICE: HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as:

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- living in emergency or transitional shelters
- abandoned in hospitals
- living in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above

If you are personally aware of or are acquainted with any children or youth who may qualify according to the above criteria, the Melrose-Mindoro School District provides the following assurances to parents and guardians of homeless children and youth and unaccompanied homeless youth:

- The child or youth shall be immediately enrolled and allowed to fully participate in school, even if unable to produce records normally required for enrollment (e.g., academic records, immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, or other documentation) or has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
- Homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and have full and equal educational and related opportunities.
- Meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children including special notices of events, parent-teacher conferences, newsletters, and access to student records.
- Immediate enrollment and transportation to the school of origin. "School of origin" means the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool.
- Written explanation of any decisions related to school selection or enrollment made by the school, the local educational agency, or the State educational agency involved, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to appeal and receive prompt resolution of such decisions.

Please contact Malena Lupient, Homeless Liaison at lupient.malena@mel-min.k12.wi.us or call (608) 488-2201 for additional information about the rights and services described above.



Congratulations to our Staff Members on their Retirement!

Congratulations!! At the end of the 23-24 school year, we said goodbye to some of our Mustang family. All the best to Elementary teachers Teri Sanders, Karen Giese, Janet Woodward; District IT David Speckeen, Kindergarten teacher Ann Suttie & High School PE teacher Judy Brauner, Your dedication to the students and district do not go unnoticed and you all have left a lasting impression.

Want to show your school spirit? Need a gift for your favorite Mustang? The Mustang Corral is the place to shop!

Hats, sweatshirts, T-shirts, bleacher seats, we've got you covered. This student run store led by Business teacher Allison Boudry is geared up for this Fall.

Students should listen to morning announcements for opening dates & times. The Mustang Corral will also be open to the public. Watch the district website or Facebook for more information.



Melrose-Mindoro School District Census Data Collection

(August 2024)

The Melrose-Mindoro School District is collecting census data for children 20 years of age (as of June 30 this year) and younger. Please complete this form **ONLY** if you have a new addition to the family, are new to the district, or your children do not attend Melrose-Mindoro Schools.

Will your children attend school in the Melrose-Mindoro School District? () Yes () No

If no, where will they attend school? _____

Please list children oldest to youngest (age 0-20 years old as of June 30 current year) residing in your home. Use legal names of children.

Child's First Name	Child's Last Name	Date of Birth	Gender (M/F)	Current Grade Level

Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

(List only those living in the household)

Father's Full Name _____

Mother's Full Name _____

Others' (not already listed) Full Names _____

Address (street, city) _____

City, Village, or Township you live in _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Please send this form to:

Melrose-Mindoro School District, ATTN: Michelle Murray
N181 ST RD 108, Melrose, WI 54642

Email to: murraym@mel-min.k12.wi.us or FAX to 608-488-2805

Melrose-Mindoro School District
N181 State Hwy 108
Melrose, WI 54642

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