

Wow, just wow. Where do I begin? Normally I look back so let's start there. For the days we were open in March, participation was trending up as it has been district wide, month to month and year to year. Creativity abounded at the High School as our Build Your Own Bar continued to be very popular due, I believe, to the ability to customize quality fresh ingredients.

Smoothies at all levels are wildly popular and the addition of parfaits has been well received as well. At RAMS, baking pizza in house has greatly improved the quality and again the customization ability. Miller & Placentino are kicking it with large participation increases and with virtually all students prepaid, we have the lines disappearing. Thank you for helping your children learn good table manners by allowing them adequate time to eat.

So, looking forward. Those of us in the food service business tend to be extroverts who thrive on activity. I generally compose these emails in my office at the High School with staff members in and out, the phone ringing, door bells sounding to announce deliveries, buzzers going off between classes, student helpers poking their head in to say hi or drop off mail, always with the hum of kitchen activity in the background. I LOVE it! This is my normal. Jumping up and down to serve on the High School serving line or running out the door to another school; I don't think I have ever drafted an email in one sitting as I hope to this morning, in my den with my dog on the couch next to me and the hum of the ever-present TV in the background.

What do I want to tell you? That my super hero lunch staff are doing what we always do; feeding your children lunch, Monday through Friday. We have quickly and successfully transitioned to a new normal. Producing quality school lunches served in a new way. We are "open for business" distributing nutritious and delicious lunches from the Miller cafeteria loop from 11:30 – 12:30 every weekday (at no cost)! **Please note that effective Monday, April 6, 2020, we will transition to distributing lunches on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week, distributing two lunches on Monday and Wednesday for each participant. Understanding that the need for nutritious lunches knows no holiday, we WILL be open on Good Friday, April 10, 2020 and will be serving our regular M/W/F schedule during the week when April school vacation was scheduled to occur.**

Are your children not on the free or reduced program? Not necessary. Are they Holliston residents but do not attend the Holliston Public Schools? Come on down it does not matter. We are here for all Holliston children. We are modifying our most popular menu item to send home with you. We know what our customers like because we feed them every day. Can't make it to grab and go? Send an email to foodservice@holliston.k12.ma.us with the number of children in your household and your address and lunch will be delivered to you by volunteers from the Holiday Dreams Foundation. The Foundation is also offering dinner, let us know if you want to be included in that program when you email. A huge debt of gratitude goes as well to the Holliston Lions, Holliston Police Department our amazing HPS Administration, Principals and Custodial Staff for their support during this time.

I want to tell you that we miss our (your) kids and look forward to their return. When they come back, we will greet them with an extra special smile to help them transition back to normal. Give them a virtual hug from their lunch ladies and lunch man! And if there is anything we can do for you during this time, please email me at palefskys@holliston.k12.ma.us

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another." – Charles Dickens. Let us lighten at least one burden for you.

Peace, Susan Palefsky

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-snap-benefits-food-stamps>

<https://www.hollistonpantryshelf.org/>

<http://www.projectbread.org/news-and-events/news/covid-19-hunger-food.html>

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-unemployment-benefits>