



# Shawsheen Valley Technical High School

100 Cook Street, Billerica, Massachusetts 01821-5499

Internet Address: [www.shawsheentech.org](http://www.shawsheentech.org)

**BRADFORD L. JACKSON, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent-Director*

Tel.: (978) 667-2111  
 Fax: (978) 663-6272

Dear Shawsheen Tech Parents/Guardians,

While the start of the school year looks a little different for everyone, I wanted to share with you some good news that schools nationwide received last week. The USDA extended a waiver that allows schools to serve **free breakfast and lunch to ALL students, through 12/31/20**. We are thrilled with this news as it means that we will be able to provide all Shawsheen Valley Technical High School students with nutritious and nourishing food for free that will support them, both in school and at home.

What this means for your family and for Shawsheen Valley Technical High School –

- Your children, ages 0 -21, will receive a healthy breakfast and lunch every school day, at no cost, in a safe and welcoming environment. This applies to students who are attending classes in school or virtual classes at home, or a hybrid combination of these models.
- You may pick up meals for your children who are remote learners at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School or other school district meal sites that are distributing meals.
- It allows Shawsheen Valley Technical High School to provide the most nourishing and appetizing meals possible for your children. When your children eat school meals, it helps the school system by providing federal funds to the district. The more meals we serve, the more funding we receive, allowing us to focus on meal quality, variety and innovative practices (new recipes, frozen take home meals, etc.). If your children have never before participated in school meals, consider trying the program this year!
- It helps you save time and money. By allowing us to prepare meals for your children you don't have to plan and shop for your children's breakfast and lunch each school day. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has requested that the USDA extend free meals for all students for the entire school year. However, as of now, the USDA has only allowed this through December 31, 2020. Therefore, families should still submit a household application to determine eligibility for free and reduced price school meals. This will also allow students to qualify for any additional benefits and ensure a seamless transition when schools move back to a paid program (if the waiver is not extended for January to June 2021). The application is available to download at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School web page. Click on the Lunch menu icon, and a Shawsheen Tech café page will open. Mail or send in free and reduce form to the Shawsheen Tech's Cafe department.

In addition, we also encourage families to apply for SNAP benefits. SNAP provides monthly cash benefits (on an EBT card) to purchase groceries for eligible families. To apply for SNAP, visit [www.startwithsnap.org](http://www.startwithsnap.org) or call the Project Bread FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333. If

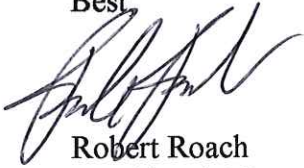
you are unsure whether your family is eligible, the FoodSource Hotline can assist you with eligibility questions. Families approved for SNAP are directly eligible to receive free meals at school and do not need to fill out an application for free and reduced price meals.

We will be offering a grab and go breakfast and lunch to students from Shawsheen Valley Regional Vocational Technical School District and those students who are going to school remotely. These grab and go's will be available between 11 a.m. and 12 noon, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You be able to pick them up at the cafeteria entrance in the back of the school starting Monday, September 21st. The lunches will consist of a sandwich, chips, fruit and a bottle of water. You will also be given a breakfast kit for the next day.

We ask that you notify Mr. Roach, via e-mail at [rroach@shawtech.org](mailto:rroach@shawtech.org), by 2 p.m. the day before so we can ensure all food is made fresh every morning and that we have enough on hand. Orders placed for Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> must be submitted before 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 20th. Please include any diet restrictions.

For everyone's protection, our food service employees will be wearing personal protection wear when they deliver the grab and go's to your car. We ask you to please remain in your car in order to adhere to the social distance recommendation. You will be asked the student's name upon which time you will be given the grab and go. Please reach out with any questions you might have. Your children are the reason we do our jobs and we are here to make sure that they are fueled with good food!

Best,



Robert Roach  
Nutritional Director