

St. Martin's Lutheran School and Hope Lutheran High School Wellness Policy

Preamble

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Preamble

- Whereas, children need access to healthful foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive;
- Whereas, good health fosters student attendance and education;
- Whereas, obesity rates have doubled in children and tripled in adolescents over the last two decades, and physical inactivity and excessive calorie intake are the predominant causes of obesity;
- Whereas, heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes are responsible for two-thirds of deaths in the United States, and major risk factors for those diseases, including unhealthy eating habits, physical inactivity, and obesity, often are established in childhood;
- Whereas, 33% of students do not participate in sufficient vigorous physical activity and 72% of high school students do not attend daily physical education classes;
- Whereas, only 2% of children (2 to 19 years of age) eat a healthy diet consistent with the five main recommendations from the MyPlate;
- Whereas, nationally, the items most commonly sold from school vending machines, school stores, and snack bars include low-nutrition foods and beverages, such as soda, sports drinks, imitation fruit juices, chips, candy, cookies, and snack cakes;
- Whereas, schools around the country are facing significant fiscal and scheduling constraints and 1 Whereas, community participation is essential to the development and implementation of successful school wellness policies;

Thus, St. Martin's Lutheran School, and Hope Lutheran High School are committed to providing a school environment that will promote and protect our student's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Therefore, it is the policy of BOTH St. Martin's Elementary and Hope Lutheran High School is that:

- Our schools will engage students, parents, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals, and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring, and reviewing the school's nutrition and physical activity policies.
- All students will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.

- Foods and beverages sold or served at school will meet the nutrition recommendations of the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- Qualified child nutrition professionals will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; will accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
- To the maximum extent practicable, St. Martin's Elementary and Hope High School will participate in available federal school meal programs (including the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program [including after-school snacks], Summer Food Service Program, Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program [including suppers]).
- Our schools will provide nutrition education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity, and will establish linkages between health education and school meal programs, and with related community services.

I. School Health Councils

St. Martin's Lutheran School and Hope Lutheran High School will create, strengthen, and or work within existing council/school board guidelines to develop, implement, monitor, review, and, as necessary, revise school nutrition and physical activity policies. The council/school board also will serve as resources to our school's for implementing those policies. (A school health council consists of a group of individuals representing the school and community, and should include parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, members of the school board, school administrators, teachers, health professionals, and members of the public.)

II. Nutritional Quality of Foods and Beverages Sold and Served on Campus

Meals served through the National School Lunch Program will:

- Be appealing and attractive to children;
- Be served in clean and pleasant settings;
- Meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations;
- Offer a variety of fruits and vegetables;

St. Martin's and Hope will share information, upon request, about the nutritional content of meals with parents and students.

Free and Reduced-Priced Meals. Our schools will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.

Meal times and Scheduling. St. Martin's:

- Will provide students with at least 30 minutes after sitting down for lunch (K - 8);
- Will schedule meal periods at appropriate times, e.g., lunch should be scheduled between 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m.;
- Will provide students access to handwashing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks; and

- Should take reasonable steps to accommodate the tooth-brushing regimens of students with special oral health needs (e.g., orthodontia or tooth decay risk).

Meal times and Scheduling. HLHS:

- Will provide students with at least 20 minutes after sitting down for lunch;
- Will schedule meal periods at appropriate times, e.g., lunch should be scheduled between 10:30 a.m. and 12 p.m.;
- Will not schedule tutoring, club or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes, unless students may eat during such activities.
- Will provide students access to handwashing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks; and
- Should take reasonable steps to accommodate the tooth-brushing regimens of students with special oral health needs (e.g., orthodontia or tooth decay risk).

Qualifications of School Food Service Staff. Qualified nutrition professionals will administer the school meal programs. As part of the school's responsibility to operate a food service program, we will provide continuing professional development for our food Food Service Manager.

Sharing of Foods and Beverages. Our Schools should discourage students from sharing their foods or beverages with one another during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some children's diets.

Foods and Beverages Sold Individually (I.e., foods sold outside of reimbursable school meals, such as through vending machines, cafeteria a la carte [snack] lines, fundraisers, school stores, etc.)

Snacks. Snacks served during the school day will make a positive contribution to children's diets and health, with an emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables as the primary snacks and water as the primary beverage. We will assess if and when to offer snacks based on timing of other school meals, children's nutritional needs, children's ages and other considerations. Both schools will disseminate a list of healthful snack items to teachers and parents. (See handbooks)

Rewards. Our schools will not use foods or beverages, especially those that do not meet the nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually (above), as rewards for academic performance or good behavior, and will not withhold food or beverages (including food served through school meals) as punishment.

Celebrations. Our schools should limit celebrations that involve food during the school day to no more than one party per class per month. Each party should include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet nutrition standards for foods and beverages sold individually (above). Our schools will disseminate a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers.

School-Sponsored Events. (such as, but not limited to, athletic events, dances, or performances). Foods and beverages offered or sold at school-sponsored events outside the school day will meet standard for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually (above).

III. Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion and Food Marketing

Nutrition Education and Promotion. St. Martin's Elementary School and Hope Lutheran High School both aim to teach, encourage, and support healthy eating by students. Our schools should provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is offered at each grade level as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Is part of not only health education classes, but also classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects;
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, farm visits, and school gardens;
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health-enhancing nutrition practices;
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (physical activity/exercise);
- Links with school meal programs, other school foods, and nutrition-related community services;
- Teaches media literacy with and emphasis on food marketing; and
- Includes training for teachers and other staff.

Integrating Physical Activity into the Classroom Setting. For students to receive the nationally-recommended amount of daily physical activity (I.e., at least 60 minutes per day) and for students to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior, students need opportunities for physical activity beyond physical education class. Toward that end:

- Classroom health education will complement physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically-active lifestyle and to reduce time spent on sedentary activities, such as watching television, being on computers and other electronic devices;
- Opportunities for physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

Communications With Parents. St. Martin's and Hope Lutheran High School will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children. Both schools will offer healthy eating seminars for parents, send home nutrition information, post nutrition tips on school website, and provide nutrient analyses of school menus (upon request).

Our schools will encourage parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet the above nutrition standards for individual foods and beverages. We will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities before, during, and after the school day; and support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school. Such supports will include sharing information about physical activity and physical education through a website, newsletter, or other take-home material, special events, or physical education homework.

Food Marketing in Schools. School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion. As such, St. Martin's Elementary and Hope High School will limit food and beverage marketing to the promotion of foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards for meals or for foods and beverages sold individually (above). School-based marketing of brands promoting predominantly low-nutrition foods and beverages is prohibited. The promotion of healthy foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products is encouraged.

Examples of marketing techniques include the following: logos and brand names on/in vending machines, books or curricula, textbook covers, school supplies, scoreboards, school structures, and sports equipment; educational incentive programs that provide food as a reward; programs that provide schools with supplies when families buy low-nutrition food products; in-school television, such as Channel One; free samples or coupons; and food sales through fundraising activities. Marketing covers promoting water; pricing structures that promote healthy options in a la carte lines or vending machines; sales of fruit for fundraisers; and coupons for discount gym members.

Staff Wellness. St. Martin's Lutheran School and Hope Lutheran High School highly value the health and well-being of every staff member and will plan and implement activities and policies that support personal efforts by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The school staff encourage healthy eating, physical activity, and other elements of a healthy lifestyle among school staff.

IV. Physical Activity Opportunities and Physical Education

Daily Physical Education (P.E.) K - 5. All students in grades Kindergarten - 5th grade, including students with disabilities, special health-care needs, and alternative educational settings, will receive a minimum physical education 90 minutes/week for the entire school year (30 minutes - three times a week). Students will spend at least 40 percent of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

(P.E.) 6th - 8th. All students in grades 6th-8th, including students with disabilities, special health-care needs, and alternative educational settings, will receive a minimum physical education 120 minutes/week for the entire school year. (40 minutes – three times a week) Students will spend at least 50 percent of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

(P.E.) 9th-10th. All students in grades 9th-10th, including students with disabilities, special health-care needs, and alternative educational settings, will receive physical education 75 minutes/week for the entire school year. Students will spend at least 50 percent of physical education class time participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Schools should discourage extended periods (I.e., periods of two or more hours) of inactivity. When activities, such as mandatory school-wide testing, make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, schools should give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and be moderately active.

Physical Activity and Punishment. Teachers and other school and community personnel will not use physical activity (e.g., running laps, pushups) or withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g., recess, physical education) as punishment.

Safe Routes to School. St. Martin's and Hope High School will assess and, if necessary and to the extent possible, make needed improvements to make it safer and easier for students to walk and bike to school. When appropriate, our schools will work together with local public works, public safety, and/or police departments in those efforts.

Use of School Facilities Outside of School Hours. Our shared school facilities can be made available to students, staff and community members before, during, and after the school day, on weekends, and during school vacations. School policies concerning safety will apply at all times.

V. Monitoring and Policy Review

Monitoring. The administrator or designee will ensure compliance with established nutrition and physical activity wellness policies. The principal will ensure compliance with those policies and will report on the school's compliance to the School Board (St. Martin's School) and/or the Board of Directors (Hope Lutheran High).

The Food Service Manager will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report on this matter to both school principals. In addition, our school's will report on the most recent USDA School Meals Initiative (SMI) review findings and any resulting changes. If we have not received a SMI review from the state agency within the past five years, we will request from the state agency that a SMI review be scheduled as soon as possible in conjunction with our host St. Martin's Lutheran School.

Policy Review. Policy will be reviewed at least every three years to help review policy compliance, assess progress, and determine areas in need of improvement. As part of that review, both schools will review our nutrition and physical activity policies; provision of an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity; and nutrition and physical education policies and program elements. St. Martin's Lutheran School and Hope Lutheran High School will, as necessary, revise the wellness policies and develop work plans to facilitate their implementation.

Hope LHS:

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St. Martin's:

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