

## School Meal Time

### Launch of a Newsletter “School Meal Time”

The school meal program plays an important role in promoting pupil's health, improving physique as well as cultivating proper understanding and a sense of dietary habits by providing nutritiously well-balanced meals for pupils who are in the middle of their growth period and require the right physical and mental health development.

To obtain a deeper understanding to our school meal program, we compiled answers and comments on the questions we have gathered from guardians in form of this leaflet.

It would be our pleasure that this leaflet becomes a good guide to deepen both pupils' and guardians' understanding of the school meal program.

### **【NOTICE】 Expanded the Policy of Lightening of the Guardian's Burden of School Meal Cost**

To lighten the burden of paying cost for school meals charged to child rearing family under the current situation of rapid rise in prices, Kawaguchi City decided to expand the policy of lightening of the guardian's burden of School Meal Cost for the school year 2025. By this, the cost equivalent to staple food such as rice, bread, etc., will be all borne by Kawaguchi City (¥67 for elementary school / day, ¥92 for junior high school / day)!

School Meal Cost(monthly) for the school year 2025 is as follows:

**【Elementary School】** ¥3,845 per month (alleviated ¥12,067 per year)

**【Junior High School】** ¥4,336 per month (alleviated ¥16,566 per year)

What other costs except for food material are included in the School Meal Cost?

School meal is provided in accordance with the School Meal Law. It stipulates, in all necessary costs concerning providing of school meals, that costs for facility / equipment,

labor costs shall be borne by the city, and other costs shall be borne by guardians.

In this city, the amount charged for guardians as School Meal Cost is the cost for food material only. (by the Article 11 of the School Meal Law)

How much is it for one meal?

The cost of a meal is ¥302 for elementary school, ¥357 for junior high school.

The amounts above are the School Meal Cost fixed by the City. However, considering each household's financial situation under a consequence of lingering rise in prices, a measure to lighten the burden of guardians has been implemented.

As for April 2025, School Meal Cost charged for guardians is ¥235 for a pupil in elementary school, ¥265 for a pupil in junior high school. The difference between the amount fixed by the City (¥67 for elementary schools, ¥92 for junior high schools) is filled by the City.

#### Elementary School

¥302 per meal (¥235 borne by guardian, ¥67 borne by the City (for the cost equivalent to staple food))

#### Junior High School

¥357 per meal (¥265 borne by guardian, ¥92 borne by the City (for the cost equivalent to staple food))

Why School Meal Cost has been raised?

Even after the hike in the consumption tax rate to 8 % in 2014, Kawaguchi City has been kept the amount of School Meal Cost charged for guardians as it was.

During that period, costs of food material for school meals kept increasing little by little. In addition to this, the occurrence of COVID-19 and international conflicts drastically raised commodity prices.

For a period from October 2022 to March 2023, Kawaguchi City has been able to

corresponding to this price rise of food material by the aid of subsidy. However, to provide school meals in a stable condition while keeping its quality and quantity, we had no choice but to revise the amount of School Meal Cost in April 2023 and April 2024.

Cost per one School Meal

	2010	2014	2023	2024	2025
Elementary School	¥232	¥238	¥273	¥302	¥302
Junior High School	¥272	¥279	¥324	¥357	¥357

How the amount of School Meal Cost is determined?

The cost for school meal is fixed by the Kawaguchi City Board of Education after deliberations at the School Meal Management Council which in charge of investigation and deliberation of important matters concerning school meals.

The council consists of experts (in medical/public health, education, etc.), principals of elementary schools and junior high schools, PTA members of elementary schools and junior high schools to discuss various matters from fixing of menus, investigation of kitchens, to examination of food prices and budget implementation, etc.

Not only taking opinions from schools, but also opinions from guardians are taken into deliberations on the necessity of revising of the amount of School Meal Cost.

I insist the City should bear all the cost for school meals.

Considering current cost for each meal (¥302 at elementary schools, ¥357 at junior high schools), Kawaguchi City needs 2.4 billion financial resources per year for the realization of free school meals.

In our current situation, to seek for this huge amount of financial resource and keep it in a stable and continuous revenue base is quite difficult, or the idea of providing free school meals is far from realistic.

How much money is spending on School Meal service?

As providing below, School Meal service is operated by the cost for food material paid by guardians and other expenses paid by the City (necessary costs for facility/equipment, labor cost, etc.)

As of April 2025.

【Elementary School】 ¥701 per meal

For Food Material	¥235 borne by guardian, ¥67 aided by the City
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Othe costs (necessary expenses for facility/equipment, etc.)	¥399 borne by the City
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【Junior High School】 ¥728 per meal

For Food Material	¥265 borne by guardian, ¥92 aided by the City
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Othe costs (necessary expenses for facility/equipment, etc.)	¥371 borne by the City
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My child says he needs some more refills.

Depending on the menu or the number of absentees of that day, we may be able to serve children extra portion (※), however, Kawaguchi City's School Meal menu is fixed based on the Dietary Reference Intakes for Japanese set up by the national government which gives pupils highly nourishing meals without any extra portion for their healthy development.

School Meal menu always comes with milk which richly contains calcium one of the indispensable nutrients for children in their growth period. Also, Nutritional balance, combination of ingredients, array of colors, feed-backs from principals and teachers of schools on the current situation are thoroughly taken into consideration before determining School Meal menu.

※not for children with food allergy.

Can we have salad with raw vegetables in School Meal menu?

To prevent food poisoning, School Meal basically serves cooked meals in accordance with the Sanitation Control Standard settled by the national government.

“○○ salad” in School Meal menu is always served in a form of cooled off boiled vegetables to provide safe and reliable meals at school.

Can we require arrangements to cope with food allergies?

To secure every pupil's safe school meal time, every teaching staff that includes class teachers, principals and other senior teachers, nutritionists, nurse-teachers of Kawaguchi City's municipal schools are systematically coping with each pupil's food allergy cases by sharing the information and putting arrangements for it as a top priority.

In case your child requires special arrangement to cope with food allergies with foods provided at school meal, he or she needs to make individual plan with the school based on “List of Requiring Special Attention Under School Supervision” filled in at home.

For further information and consultation, please contact the school your child is attending for consultation.

The City is going to make another school meal center, is that true?

Currently, Kawaguchi City has three school meal centers. Two of them (Shingo school meal center, Nampei school meal center) are beginning to show signs of deterioration because they have already passed forty years from its establishment. For this reason, the City is currently planning to realize the establishment of a new school meal center to supplement the above mentioned two facilities,

A new facility will allow us to secure further sanitary environment as well as providing school meals responding to each type of food allergy.

※Motogo school meal center, which was established in January 2014 is equipped with the most recent equipment and tools, also has a specific kitchen to provide meals for food allergy patients (for milk/egg only).

What is the most popular menu among children? I would like to have a recipe of it, too!

Curry and rice, the staple and invariable star of school meal. Others are deep-fried bun, fried chicken, seaweed rice, ramen, etc.♪ You can search recipes of meals we are providing at school anytime on official website of the School Health Division!



< Inquiry >

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