

Saint Benedict School

**Lunch Offer versus Serve Policy**

Offer versus serve (OVS) is a policy for reimbursable meals that allow students to decline a certain number of food components in the meal in order to reduce plate waste and food cost.

A School lunch eligible for federal reimbursement shall offer (5) food components in the appropriate amount per grade grouping:

- Fruits
- Vegetable
- Milk
- Grain
- Meat/Meat Alternate

Students are allowed to decline two (2) of the five (5) required food components, but must select at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of either fruit or  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup vegetable.

After selecting the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup fruit or vegetable requirement, students must select at least two (2) additional full components in the full amounts (per age/grade grouping required amounts) to count toward the reimbursable offer versus serve meal.

The student's decision to accept all five (5) components or to decline two (2) components shall not affect the price charged for the meal. The lunch is priced as a unit. If the students do not choose enough food items to comprise a reimbursable meal, a la carte prices will be charged.

School staff cannot make exceptions to the policy, such as requiring every child to take a particular food component. It is the student's choice to select any three, four, or all five components of the reimbursable meal.

