

We in the food service department as in every school have been challenged during this Covid-19 crisis.

As of March 16th, my staff has worked week after week during this pandemic working holidays, school vacations and through the summer and will continue to work straight through until the end of summer 2021 to ensure all children in the Cape Elizabeth community receive contactless meals. We are currently serving 500 meals a day.

With the challenges of this we have incurred more expenses. Staff hours have increased. Food costs have risen with the demand for prepackaged prewrapped items. We have had to purchase many items to ensure student and staff safety. The cost of the paper products to ensure safe delivery of food delivered to the classrooms or other designated areas and packaging of bulk orders for home delivery.

The Cape Elizabeth Police Department have graciously made themselves available week after week for home delivery to families that are not able to get out. They started working with us March 16th and continue to do so. We needed to have coolers and packaging for transit for safe delivery.

We applied and received grants from Full Plates Full Potential last summer to help offset the cost of items needed for food pick up and home deliveries. Items such as coolers, bags, boxes. Ice machine repair as we needed the ice for the coolers. We also purchased a lot of fresh produce for the summer season.

We received a waiver for summer 2020 and also this school year including summer 2021 for all students to have breakfast and lunch provided to them 5 days a week whether in person at school or home at no cost to the family.