

EAT SCHOOL LUNCH

There shouldn't be as much hate towards the CCHS lunch by the students because of the needs that the lunch fulfills.



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The warm crisp of the golden chicken nuggets, the airy waves of heat coming off the steamed broccoli, the sweet and savory pulled pork gleams between two buns.

Every day, Clarke Central High School students are provided with multiple free lunch options, but student discourse surrounding the school lunch devolves into bad-mouthing.

"I stopped eating the school lunch around fourth grade," CCHS freshman A'Mauriya

Barnes said. "I personally think (the) school lunch is nasty and shouldn't be given out to students."

Slandering the lunch, leaving trash on the floor and tables and leaving the cafeteria staff to clean up the mess is no way to act. Especially if there isn't any cost to students if they choose to have lunch.

The people who work to provide the 1833 students, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, with such amenities to the CCHS community deserve more.

With its many options and benefits, the backlash towards lunch is not deserved, and blaming the cafeteria staff is not the answer to getting changes that many may feel need to be made. Such changes may be the inclusion of more delectable seasonings or a more expansive selection of foods.

"I'm sure (the cafeteria staff) would love to give (students) what they really know how to cook and they're proud of, but they work within the guidelines of

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the Federal Nutrition Program that was changed during the Obama administration," CCHS Associate Principal Dr. Cindi Lowe said. "People still complained about it, but they're trying to serve you a healthy tray."

The Athens-Clarke County website based on 2019 Census statistics states that the poverty rate of ACC is 29.9%. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, a poverty rate of 20% or more is a high poverty rate.

Free lunches take away a heavy load for families regarding feeding their kids. Even without that fact, raising children itself is expensive and severely impacts people's paycheck and what they are able to provide and buy.

If students are feeling a little spicy, they could suggest a plan that falls in nutritional guidelines, most likely through contact with the Clarke County School District nutritional staff directory.

The school lunch can be for people who don't have access to nutritional food, and it's not fair to just dismiss the lunch due to its important role within the school.

People shouldn't feel forced to eat it, but more students should be aware of the need and overall benefit of the school lunch. 



Above: NICE SPICE: A student dramatically scoffs at the school lunch while another enjoys their lunch. School lunch has a bad reputation at Clarke Central High School, and while there have been some warranted critiques, sometimes the hate is overdramatic. "The backlash towards lunch is not deserved and blaming the cafeteria staff is not the answer to getting changes that one may feel needs to be made," Viewpoints Staffer and Illustrator Antonio Starks wrote. Illustration by Antonio Starks