

August 15, 2019

Dear Parents,

Last Spring, our school implemented a biometric finger scanning identification program in an effort to provide security for your child's cafeteria account, eliminate cafeteria clerical errors and provide students an easy way to identify themselves when using the cafeteria. Through this system, students use a finger pad at the cashier's station to identify themselves and to gain access for meal services.

This system offers complete privacy and does not in any way store a copy of the student's fingerprint. Upon implementation, the index finger is scanned. The software develops a grid of unique intersecting then it creates a template using the unique points on the finger. Next, the template is converted into a binary number. This indefinable string of numbers is what is stored in the program and is what will be called upon to identify a student.

Parents who are opposed to this method of identification may opt-out for their students by filling out an opt-out form at any time. While the district encourages participation in order to improve our customer service and to help preserve the integrity of our student's lunch accounts; we are also sensitive to the fact that some parents are opposed to bio scanning of any type. If you are opposed, please complete the opt-out form and return it to your student's building office.

Students who do opt-out of using the system will be required to provide their lunch number to the food service clerk in the cafeteria.

What is Biometric Identification?

Biometric identification is automated methods of identifying a person based upon physical or behavioral characteristics. Our school selected identiMetrics biometric finger scanning identification software because it is fast, accurate, cost-effective and non-intrusive.

What about my child's privacy?

The software scans the finger for identification. It does not store a copy of the fingerprints. Instead, the software creates a template of the unique fingerprint characteristics which is then converted into a binary number. These templates are stored in the school's database with the same high level of security of all of your child's records. When your child graduates or is no longer enrolled in the school system, the templates are deleted. At no time is a fingerprint image stored. No fingerprints can be recreated or delivered to any agency - governmental or otherwise.

How does finger scanning identification work?

Using a finger scanner, the software scans the finger to create and store individual templates of unique points that identify each student. When the student returns, the software again scans the finger and looks for a match in the database. When a match is found, the student is identified.

Thanks for being involved!

We hope you will find this new way of identifying your child to be safe, easy, accurate and efficient. This program is entirely optional, and you can find the opt-out form on the district website or you can request the form from school offices at any time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Steve McCullough, Superintendent

