



TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tonawanda High School

600 FLETCHER STREET

TONAWANDA, NEW YORK 14150

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Christopher Muscato
Food Service Director



Monday, November 10, 2023

Dear City of Tonawanda Community Members,

We hope this letter finds you well. We would like to inform you about an important matter regarding the availability of milk containers in our school district.

On Friday, October 27th, Upstate Farms, our milk vendor, sent a notice to school districts across New York State about a shortage of ½-pint milk containers. Please note that this issue is not limited to our district alone; it is a nationwide problem. While schools will be the last to experience this shortage, healthcare, childcare centers, and other programs will be affected first.

Commencing November 13th, if ½-pint milk containers become unavailable, we will be serving milk from ½-gallon containers instead of the usual half-pint containers. Although Child Nutrition and State Education have granted a waiver notifying us that we are not required to serve milk due to the shortage, we believe it is crucial to prioritize the proper nutrition of our students. Therefore, we have devised the following protocols until our vendor can procure ½-pint containers:

For grades 6-12: Students will have access to chilled 1% milk and low-fat chocolate milk in bulk. They will be able to pour the milk into cups themselves at the cafeteria. Upon reaching the cashier station in the lunch line, students will be asked if they would like a cup for milk. The station will be regularly restocked to accommodate their needs.

For grades K-5: Only during lunchtime, 1% milk and low-fat chocolate milk will be available. Monitors will provide cups and milk at the tables. Due to breakfast being served in the classroom milk will not be served during this shortage.

We sincerely appreciate your understanding and patience during this time. Our Food Service Department is committed to ensuring that every student receives proper nutrition daily. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at cmuscato@tonacsd.org.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best regards,

Christopher Muscato

Food Service Director

Tonawanda City Schools