



Killeen parents can pay for kids' lunches online

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The internet is now entering the school lunchroom. KISD parents can go online to pay for their kid's lunch and make sure they are getting a healthy meal.

Every day before school, Allyson Gilmore's mom used to give her lunch money, but now the 7th grader at Union Grove Middle School in Harker Heights just keys in a password and her lunch is automatically paid for out of PAM's lunchroom, which stands for parent account management system. It's a website where moms and dads can pay for their children's lunch online.

Steve Murphy is the school nutrition director at KISD and says, "Once the account gets down to \$10, it will automatically charge the account \$30."

It also charges a 5.6% transaction fee, which means if you spend \$25, another \$1.40 will be added to the tab. Murphy says he hasn't had any parents complain about the fee. Most are just happy they're no longer forgetting their child's lunch money.

And when you are entering PAM's lunchroom, it may not be to pay for your child's lunch, because you can also check to see what they are eating, because the website gives you a 30-day rundown of what was spent on the account.

"The parents are more involved in what they are eating and making sure they are getting their nutrition," Murphey says.

And if parents are still worried about the cookies, donuts, and chips, in Pam's lunchroom there is a limit of two snacks a day. Plus, it's up to the parent how much the child can spend each day.

Killeen is the first district in Central Texas to sign up for the program. So far, only about 14% of KISD parents have logged on.

You can take a look at the system at www.pamslunchroom.com.

STORY BY NICOLE MURRAY