

## The Taste Test

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As you take a bite out of your corn dog, you feel a rush of excitement course through your veins. The smell of the corn dog wafts into your nose, asking to be eaten. When you take a bite of your corn dog, the bread tastes sweet and delicious, but the hot dog is green and light pink! Kids should not buy school cafeteria foods until the foods are greatly improved. This is because cafeteria foods are unhealthy, too expensive, and they are mysterious as to what they are made with. Now we are starting our journey to the school cafeteria!

To begin with, kids should not buy school lunch foods until they are improved because they are unhealthy. For example, there are no boundaries on how many snacks you can buy in the school lunchroom. Most kids enjoy this opportunity because most kids enjoy having unhealthy foods. On the other hand, you're not getting any nutritional value from the snacks. Think about this-you are spending precious money on something that won't help you're body. This is like going to a store and buying tons of cough drops because they taste good. (Don't do this.) You are just wasting your money that you earned on something that you don't need. (If you have a cold, *then* you can buy cough drops.) Also, many of the foods in the school cafeteria are uncooked and are just warmed up. When you go to a restaurant and you order a burger, the waiter or waitress asks how you would like your burger cooked. In the cafeteria, all the burgers are cooked raw and warmed up just a bit. Would you like to open up your burger that you spent money on and find that it is light pink when you cut it open? I know I wouldn't! Most people think that the foods will get better, but they won't until a statement has been made. The unhealthy food is not good for the kids and the school should invest their money on something other than low quality foods. If the schools did this, there would definitely be a change on how the kids would act everyday. For example, imagine kids coming back from recess, dripping with salty sweat, but anxious to learn more. If the school invested on high quality ingredients, foods, and more, then the kids would have enough energy to make it through the whole day without falling asleep from the lack of energy.

Second of all, kids should not buy lunch foods until they are improved because they are expensive. Most people will argue that they are not that expensive, but for kids to be spending \$1.25 on an ice cream cone is ridiculous. Others may argue that if the prices are too high on the snack foods, then kids won't buy them because they'll be too expensive. This statement is not true with the exception of those who are buying with paper money other than online. If you are buying with paper money, you are a little more aware of the prices because you are handing the cashiers the money. Most kids have now decided to buy online because they think it is easier. It is easy-easy for you to lose track of your money and spend close to \$7.00 on lunch! If you think that \$7.00 is bad, then it will be strange when you go to middle school and high school because the prices get even *MORE* expensive! (My sister told me that the lunch food does become more quality food in high school, though.) For now, it is upsetting that kids

are spending lots of their parents' well earned money for foods that aren't the best quality. For example, for a while when I was little my mom would never want me buying lunch because the food was too expensive. Nowadays, I buy lunch on nights when I have a lot of homework and I don't have time to make my lunch. I am now starting to buy less because I am becoming more aware on what I am buying with my precious money. If the food was high quality, I would understand why the lunch food prices were so high! As I stated in the paragraph before, the school should invest their money on high quality ingredients, foods, and more! Then, the pricing of the foods would make sense! Also, school is a place of learning, right? When kids are buying lunch foods online they are never told how much money they spent. This means that kids are not learning how to prepare for the real world. If the cashiers in the lunch room would tell you how much money you spent, then it would be like accepting the receipt after buying something. Let the kids make good choices...when they hear the pricing of their food, they will put back their ice cream cone and grab something more healthy and less expensive.

Finally, kids should not buy lunch foods until they are improved because the lunch foods are mysterious. When you buy a hot dog from the school cafeteria, they don't give you the nutritional value in it or the ingredients used to make it. On foods that you buy from *other* companies when you buy lunch, they usually give you the nutritional value. Since it would be weird to put a wrapper on a hot dog, you could have a piece of paper out with all the nutritional values. Think about this-some kids buy lunch every single day! I'm sure if you asked one of the kids what they were eating they would say, "a hot dog." I would argue back, "but what's in it?" Most kids won't have an answer to that question. To add to that, even when you aren't worried about nutritional values, biting into some of the meats they have at the cafeteria can be horrendous. For example, one time at lunch I was extremely excited because I was having chicken nuggets for the first time that year. When I bit into the chicken nugget, I found a hard pink chunk in my chicken nugget. It looked as if it was once a body part of the chicken, which is something you don't want to find when you are trying to enjoy a calming lunch. All I was thinking about was how I spent my money on this mysterious, disgusting food. Additionally, rumors are also a problem when it comes to the mysterious lunch food. Many people would say that if you were to bounce your hot dog on the floor, it would be like the hot dog was on a trampoline because it would bounce right back! Once that rumor is told, then all the kids at the lunch table get all riled up about this one rumor that might not even be true. This causes the kids to search crazy things online, spying on the algorithm to making the lunch foods, etc. If the cafeteria would just tell the kids what was in the hot dogs, then the kids wouldn't make such a big deal of this example of a mysterious food.

In conclusion, kids should not buy lunch foods until they are immensely improved because the food is unhealthy, too expensive, and mysterious. Become one of many who are against these putrid lunch foods. Let's make sure that next time when you have the decision to bring or buy, think about the nutritional value in what you are buying versus what you are bringing- don't be afraid to ask the lunch workers what the nutritional value is for the food that you are purchasing.