**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

Welcome to a brand-new school year! As the Child Nutrition Director, I’m excited to partner with you to ensure your child has access to nourishing meals that support their academic success, physical growth, and overall well-being.

At Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy, we believe that healthy eating fuels learning. This year, our team is dedicated to serving delicious, balanced meals that meet USDA nutritional guidelines and appeal to even the most discerning eaters. Whether your child is grabbing breakfast on the go or enjoying a warm lunch in the cafeteria, our goal is to make every mealtime a safe, welcoming, and satisfying experience.

Here’s what you can expect this year:

* **No-cost breakfast, lunch, and after-school snacks are available to all students for free. Applications are not required for this benefit.**
* **Enhanced Menus**: More fresh ingredients, more variety, and student favorites.
* **Two Vegetables are offered daily.**
* **More Fresh Fruit**
* **Culinary Advisory Committee:** Select upper school students meet monthly to help develop student-driven menus.
* **North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Culinary Institute Graduates:** The entire management team graduated from the NCDPI Culinary Institute this summer.
* **Open Communication**: We welcome feedback and are here to answer your questions.

If your child has dietary needs or allergies, please notify us so we can make the necessary accommodations. We’re here to support every student.

Let’s make this a fantastic year together, full of learning, laughter, and lunches they’ll love!

Warm regards,

**Robert Schaffer**
Child Nutrition Director
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