



HARVARD-WESTLAKE

Last year on [@Harvard-Westlake Alumni Association](#) on Facebook and [@hwalumni](#) on Instagram, we posted a photo of an old lunch card and asked alums what they remembered about the cards and their favorite cafeteria items. Before we knew it, the posts had racked up 585 likes and 264 comments on Facebook and 248 likes and 35 comments on Instagram. Today we are pleased to serve up a buffet of your choicest school cafeteria memories from comments on those posts. Bon appetit!

Cheers, Ed Hu | Head of External Relations | ehu@hw.com



P.S. Lunch cards went digital in 2006 (here's mine). Although nowadays students just swipe their ID cards or iHW app, several alums mentioned that they've held onto their beloved paper cards. If you have an old card and would still like to redeem the unused amount, let me know and I'll be happy to buy you lunch!

Meal Ticket



Clockwise from top left: Froyo station at the upper school, 1995; Westlake School lunch card, 1990; Harvard School lunch tables, 1980s; Harvard-Westlake School lunch cards, circa 2005; Jenni O'Reilly-Jones '01 dressed as a lunch card for Halloween, 1997; Westlake School cafeteria, 1970s; Harvard School lunch card, 1980s

Editor's note: These Facebook and Instagram comments have been lightly edited and reordered. Quotes and yearbook photos are used with permission.

Taylor Lasley Reid '08: I had a donut with sprinkles every morning without fail.

Adam Sieff '07: Patty and Jim never judging me for regularly having mini corn dogs for breakfast says all you need to know about their character.

Susie Monk Galiano '94: Fave things to eat: Costco chocolate muffin the size of my head and chicken burgers on repeat.

Gyasi Jordan '06: Warm chocolate chip cookies from Jim and Patty after practice were the best.

Jessica Howard '02: I was blown away by how quickly and accurately Patty calculated everything and marked off the cards!



Julia Kim '97: I was always so skeptical at how many bubbles were crossed off or inadvertently crossed off with the quick swipe! Oh, and bagels for sure!

Susan Beeson '96: We 100% microwaved the bagels, STILL IN SARAN WRAP. There was no toaster.

Johnny Yi '99: I remember the sandwich bar being good and also getting gravy and the sandwich bread. I would guess it is the best high school cafeteria in the country.

Alex Wittenberg '08: Chicken tender sandwich from Federico, wow.

Simone Wicks-Meighan '07: Federico knew my regular salad order. What middle schooler gets a made-to-order salad/sandwich every day? We were so spoiled!



Lunch on the Westlake terrace, 1990

Beth Lemberger Gamby '91: Pizza bagels on the terrace. I hope I knew how good I had it.

Alexis Robie '91: I was just explaining pizza bagels to my bagel-and-pizza-loving children. They were disgusted.

Sabrina Rubin '94: Bagels with butter and bacon, chimichangas, and Cup O'Noodles. All things I would never have been allowed to eat at home.

Frannie Littenberg Schwartz '94: We used to eat a bagel toasted with cream cheese and bacon (not kosher AT ALL)!

Julie Gwin Dorkin '94: I remember being introduced to bagels, cream cheese, and bacon. I thought it was so strange, but, man, were they delicious.



Harvard School snack bar (selling 75-cent hot dogs and 30-cent sodas), 1970s

Ilana Weinberg Sinclair '94: This reminds me of the first thing I purchased at the Westlake cafeteria—a bao bun (I had no idea what it was). Turned out it was filled with delicious but extremely not kosher pork. Such mixed emotions for a newly minted seventh grader.

Julia Silbergeld '01: My favorite was a frozen yogurt float: I would fill a cup a third with froyo, the rest with soda, and be charged as a soda, LOL.

Scott Wood '88: Who remembers being told by their parents only one per month...then using it up in two days?

Ben Harris '94: 😅 Nothing like the panic that ensued when you ran out of money on your card trying to buy a churro and Icee at the end of the day.



Lizzy Gruner Soltis '05: I remember bringing the scraps of my lunch card that went through the wash to Patty so she could give me credit for all the unused spaces she could identify.



Jason Gold '07: What a wild system this was. Nothing better than finding a half-used card in some backpack pocket you rarely used.



Scott Ganz '97: I remember having a pile of mostly used ones because eventually you'd have enough five-cent diamonds for a bag of Doritos.

Rob Goldenberg '91: A big "X" for spending over a dollar didn't block out all the five-cent increments, so some kids would cleverly black out some but leave a few open to save five cents here and there.

Kenneth Lin '92: Wasn't there a counterfeiting ring with someone trying to poorly laminate the card and just rubbing off the ink?

Brandon Watson '92: Correct. I remember watching someone remove charges from cards and thinking—well, that's a lot of free cookies.

Allie Miller '08: Who remembers saving unused ones for two years because they alternated red and black every other year?

Ross Sheldon '78: In the '70s ours were yellow, and beef Burgundy was my fave.

Leslie Forbes Owens '74: Guess I'm too old! No cafeteria, nor lunch card! Westlake '74 and proud!



The upper school cafeteria, 2021

Mark Schlosberg '93: I think I've got one or two of those cards at my parents' house. Can I still redeem for a snack?

Mimi Albert Kellogg '02: I still keep my lunch card from 1997-1998 in my wallet, just in case.

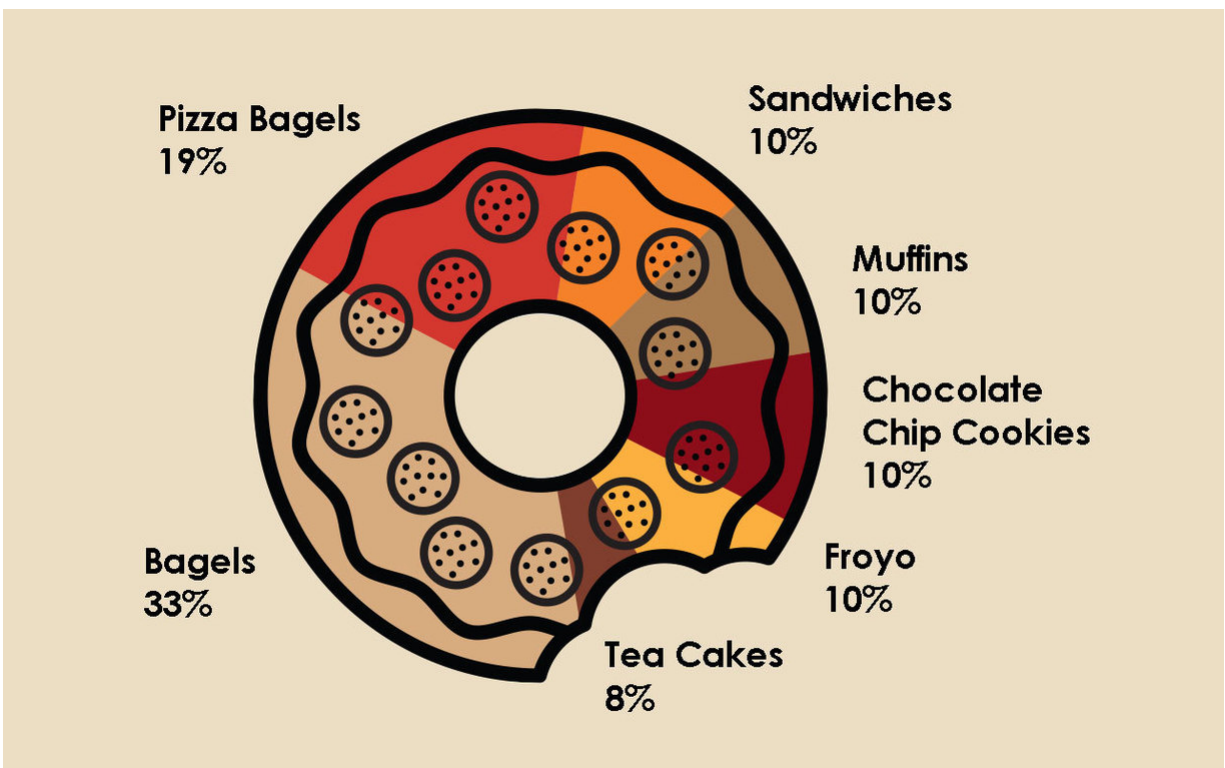
Christian Garrett '10: Some of my best memories are finding a lunch card with a few unfilled bubbles on the middle school campus. The most dangerous thing was when we transitioned



to swipe cards and I had more spending power than any ninth grader should ever have! 😂

Snack Attack

The most commonly mentioned fave foods in the lunch card post comments



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