

Peanut Blog

An ounce of information



School lunch consists of only a little salt and peanuts, and two meatballs: Principal says it's "not appropriate".

(Dan Tri Newspaper) – Regarding the image of a school lunch tray containing only a little salt, peanuts, and two meatballs, the Principal of Lap Thach 1 Primary School stated that the meal portioning still has some shortcomings.

Speaking to a reporter from Dan Tri newspaper about the image of a school lunch consisting of only a little salt, peanuts, and two pieces of fried meatballs that was posted on social media on October 15th, Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Hien, Principal of Lap Thach 1 Primary School (Phu Tho province), confirmed that this was the meal the school prepared for students at the Tu Du branch.

According to Ms. Hien, the school has not yet held a parent-teacher conference for the 2026–2027 school year. However, stemming from parents' demand for school lunch services, the school's management board has agreed to apply the same meal fee as in the 2025–2026 school year. At the Tu Du branch, more than 360 students eat lunch at school every day. The meal that caused a stir on social media was the one served on September 16th. Parents complained that the school lunch consisted of only a small amount of salted peanuts and two pieces of fried meatballs (Photo: Shared by parents).

Regarding concerns about meal portions, Ms. Hien stated that the school develops a specific menu for each day of the week. The meal pictured on social media includes plain rice, chicken patties, peanut salt, water spinach soup, and sponge cake. The principal of Lap Thach 1 Primary School acknowledged that the food preparation process had shortcomings. In addition, the portioning and presentation were rudimentary, resulting in uneven amounts of vegetables in the soup portions. Some portions had plenty of vegetables, while others had very little. Regarding the chicken meatballs, Ms. Hien suggested that the school could change the preparation method to better suit the students' tastes.

According to Ms. Hien, in the early part of the school year, the operation of the new model between the main school and the branch campus meant that inspection and supervision were sometimes not thorough enough. The school will rectify this issue in the near future. Regarding the Lap Thach Commune People's Committee, immediately after receiving the information, they assigned the Department of Culture and Social Affairs to investigate and verify the matter.

According to the initial report from the People's Committee of the commune, the school has a food supply contract, a three-step food inspection log, and food sample retention records as required. The weekly menu is publicly posted on the bulletin board and announced to parents. Regarding meal fees, the People's Committee of the commune stated that, based on the parents' demand for organizing school lunch programs, the school has agreed to apply the same fee as in the 2025–2026 school year, which is 19,000 VND per meal, including 17,800 VND for food and 1,200 VND for fuel costs and other expenses.

Regarding the image of the lunch tray posted on social media, according to the school's report and records, the menu included plain rice, chicken patties, peanut salt, water spinach soup, and sponge cake. Upon inspection, the People's Committee of the commune stated that the kitchen area at the Tu Du branch school was organized according to a one-way process, and the processing equipment was clean. At the time of the inspection, the local authorities had not recorded any cases of students showing signs of food poisoning or other health abnormalities.

The People's Committee of Lap Thach commune has assigned the Department of Culture and Social Affairs to take the lead, in coordination with the commune police, to work with the school's management board and parents to clarify the incident and report to the People's Committee of the commune before October 20th. The local authorities also requested the school's administration and catering department to conduct a thorough review and clarify the responsibilities of the collective and individuals involved. The school was required to provide actual daily meal photos on the class's communication channel for parents to monitor. Previously, images of a school lunch served to students at Lap Thach 1 Primary School, showing a rather meager portion of food, appeared on social media. On the tray, besides a portion of white rice and a bowl of soup, the only other food was a small amount of salted peanuts and two pieces of fried meatballs. The dishes were served separately on the tray, but the quantity of food attracted much attention.

The image quickly attracted attention from the online community. Many expressed concern that such meals might not provide sufficient quantity and nutrition for students, especially since they need enough energy for studying and activities throughout the day at school. Some questioned the quality of the meals and the organization of the school's lunch program.

A parent whose child attends Lap Thach 1 Primary School said that each meal shown in the shared image costs 19,000 VND. In addition to this meal fee, parents also pay 6,500 VND per day for after-school care and 50,000 VND per month for the caregiver.

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