



**August 2023**

Dear Parent/Guardian of a student with food allergies or special dietary needs,

First, we're just excited that you would have your student choose to dine with us during the school day! At the end of the day, we want you to feel confident that your student will receive a delicious, nourishing, and safe meal when they choose to eat with us.

If you have a question about a particular food item, first check our digital menu! Aramark has implemented menu software to create an easy way for you to access our menu, nutritional information, and the common allergens in our recipes. The website is: <https://dasd.nutrislice.com/>. You can also find this link if you go to: DASD.org → Food Services → School Menus. If after viewing this website you have additional questions, feel free to reach out to us at the email address below and we'll be happy to work with you individually.

Below, you'll see a few more details of how we manage student allergies and dietary needs in DASD:

- First, make sure the school nurse is aware of any dietary need that your student may have.
- For privacy reasons, our cafeteria staff does not have access to students' allergy information, so they are not able to make a decision concerning the consumption of a particular food or beverage item on behalf of a student.
- To ensure each student's safety, please encourage your student not to share food, whether brought in from home or purchased at school.
- Aramark is dedicated to a high standard of food safety. While we prevent any cross-contamination from harmful bacteria entering our food, students with severe allergies should still be aware of the possibility of cross-contact between food items that can occur while preparing the day's menu.
- While the makers of Nutrition Facts and Ingredient Labels are required to disclose common allergens listed in the actual product, allergens in the manufacturer's facility that are not a part of the food item itself may or may not be disclosed.
- At this time, our K-5 schools do not serve any products containing peanuts. At our 6-12 schools, all products containing peanuts are pre-packaged to prevent cross-contact and are clearly labeled with that information.

If you have a specific question or don't see the information you're looking for on our website, please reach out to our Food Service team at [FoodServiceInformation@dasd.org](mailto:FoodServiceInformation@dasd.org). We are happy to answer any questions you may have to ensure that you have confidence in your decision to participate in our Student Meal program at DASD.

Sincerely,

*Patrick O'Connor*

General Manager, Aramark @ Downingtown Area School District