



August 18, 2023

Dear Parents,

Over the past decade we have experienced an increase in the number of students who have severe allergies to a whole host of food items from peanuts & tree nuts to shellfish. I am writing to let you know that there are students in all grades and most classes who have allergies. Strict avoidance of these foods in all forms is the only way to prevent allergic reactions. These allergies may be life threatening, even when only touching an area where one of these foods has had contact.

In an effort to provide a safe learning environment for all children, we are asking that you consider NOT sending in peanut or tree nut items for a snack as these account for most of the allergies. You may, however, send these products in for your child's own lunch, which is eaten in the cafeteria and where a nut-free table has already been established. Please support our efforts by encouraging your child not to share any food with classmates. Birthday parties are a special time for children, but can be a difficult time for the food allergic child. Please refer to the policy on birthday celebrations.

If your child eats peanut butter or nuts of any kind before coming to school, please remind them to wash their hands with soap and water as an extra precaution. By following these guidelines, we are striving to provide an enjoyable and safe learning environment, while minimizing the risks associated with food allergies.

Thank you very much for your care and understanding of this matter.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy school year.

Sincerely,

Christopher Weiss

Riverside School Principal