

**Darien Public Schools**  
**Department of Nursing Services and Department of Dining Services**

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December 2023

Dear Middlesex Middle School Families,

Warm greetings from the Nursing Services and Dining Services Departments! Darien Public Schools is committed to maintaining the health and safety of every child in the district. Below, please find safeguards in place to ensure students can safely purchase food in our dining facilities.

**Food choices:** Darien Public Schools contracts with Chartwells food service company. All Chartwell staff receive training on food allergen management by Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE). All food items prepared and served at MMS cafeteria are nut free. Some packaged products (namely rolls and bakery goods) are nut free but produced in a facility that processes nuts and seeds. Such products are labeled accordingly. MMS students are permitted to bring lunch items that contain nuts and seeds, so it is important that we uphold our no sharing of food policy.

**Alerts:** Information about a student's known food allergies or sensitivities is entered into Mosaic, the point of sale system used at DPS. If a student attempts to purchase a food item that contains a known allergen or sensitivity, dining service staff will receive an alert message on their cash registers. The student is informed and encouraged to find a safe alternative

**Medication and Care Plans:** Students with a known Life Threatening Food Allergy should have an emergency care plan, medication order and rescue medication(s) kept in the health office. Students are permitted to self-carry their rescue medication, if indicated on the medication authorization form. Self-carry medication is in addition to the rescue medication that the student has in the health office and must be on the student at all times, along with the corresponding orders. Please contact the MMS school nurses for additional information. [Click here](#)

**Visits and Communication:** Parents and students are invited to visit the MMS dining facility and DPS Dining Services website for nutrition and allergen information specific to school menus [Click here](#). If a student intends to purchase a meal, it is recommended that parents email the school [kitchen manager](#) copying [foodservices@darienps.org](mailto:foodservices@darienps.org) either daily or weekly to ensure meals are created without the risk of cross-contact. Contact Meghan Bendish, Director of Dining Services [mbendish@darienps.org](mailto:mbendish@darienps.org) and/or your student's school based kitchen manager with questions or concerns related to food items offered.

Every effort is made to provide the safest environment possible. Your cooperation and support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the school nurse at your child's school.

Sincerely,  
Emily Merritt, Director of Nursing Services  
Meghan Bendish, Director of Dining Services