

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

December 2023

Dear Elementary School Families,

Warm greetings from the Darien Public Schools 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 served in the elementary school cafeterias are nut free and the packaged products are produced in facilities that do NOT process nuts. Elementary school 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. Peanut / tree nut free tables are available in the cafeteria, and always an option for concerned students. Please contact your school nurse or administrator for the classroom snack policy specific to your student's school.

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 your school nurse for additional information. [Click here](#)

Visits and Communication: Parents and students are invited to visit the DPS dining facility and 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](mailto:kitchen.manager@darienps.org) copying 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 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