



Sweet Home Central School District of Amherst and Tonawanda

1901 Sweet Home Road • Amherst, New York 14228
(716) 250-1402

September 2018

Dear Parent / Guardian:

Last May, the Sweet Home Board of Education approved the recommendation of the District Health & Wellness Committee to change procedures surrounding the distribution of food as a part of birthday celebrations in our school buildings. In making these recommendations, the Health and Wellness Committee studied trends in the health conditions of our student population, guidance from the Erie County Department of Health and the procedures in place in other local school districts.

As of the start of the 2018-19 school year, **students will no longer be allowed to bring in food to distribute to classmates for birthdays.** Several factors entered into this decision - most notably the sheer number of students with allergic conditions that have made it increasingly difficult for our staff to ensure that incoming food products were safe for all students.

Rest assured, that birthdays can and will still be celebrated in school as students will be recognized on the morning announcements and are welcome to bring in non-food items to pass out to their classmates if they wish. However, if food is brought into the building for birthdays, it will not be allowed into the classroom.

The only exception to this new procedure will be holiday and end of year celebrations. In those instances, students will be allowed to bring in food items to school but only from a pre-approved list. **Please keep in mind that a number of our buildings are nut-free and those products will not be permitted. In addition, some classrooms may have specific allergies and you will be notified of those by the main office prior to celebrations.** Please find that list attached for your convenience.

We thank you and ask you for your support in adhering to these guidelines for the coming school year. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the main office or nurse at your child's school.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Day
Superintendent of Schools



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Important Information

Parents:

As a reminder, students will no longer be allowed to bring in food items to distribute to classmates for birthdays. Food can be brought in for other holiday and year-end celebrations, but **must be from the pre-approved list below**. Those items on the list are acceptable and peanut and tree nut free:

Pre-Approved Food List for Designated Holiday Celebrations:

- ❖ Raisins
- ❖ Fruit or Vegetables (Pre-cut at the store)
- ❖ Pretzels (Rold Gold: rod and braided twists. Utz – all varieties)
- ❖ Smart Food white cheddar popcorn (Black bag)
- ❖ Prepackaged Rice Crispy Treats (blue package)
- ❖ Popsicles (no cream centers)
- ❖ Nabisco Oreos (blue or gold package only)
- ❖ Nabisco Teddy Grahams
- ❖ Pepperidge Farms Goldfish crackers (original flavor only)
- ❖ Barnum's Animal Crackers
- ❖ Organic Fruit Strips (Wegmans or Cliff)

****Food Items brought in MUST be from this list OR preapproved by the nurse prior to the day of the celebration.**

We suggest that you stay completely away from food items as all the children can have:

- ❖ Pencils
- ❖ Erasers
- ❖ Stickers
- ❖ Fun Stuff from the Dollar Tree

