



CHURCH STREET SCHOOL
295 CHURCH STREET
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK 10603
914-422-2400 914-335-8078 FAX



MYRA CASTILLO
PRINCIPAL

MEREDITH LEE
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

September 5, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Due to an increase in the number of students with severe food allergies and the risk of life-threatening anaphylaxis, we have reevaluated our approach to classroom snacks and food-based celebrations at school. With support from the district, we are implementing new practices to help prevent food allergy incidents. The new practices are outlined below.

Classroom Snacks

Please note that we have adopted a strict NO NUTS policy in all of our classrooms. Therefore, snacks containing nuts are not permitted in any classroom. If you send your child in with a snack, we strongly encourage you to send nutritious snacks daily. This may include fruit, raw vegetables, raisins, etc. Please adhere to specific snack guidelines for your child's classroom.

Celebrations

Homemade food is not allowed for classroom celebrations or events. Any food shared during these occasions must be store-bought, nut-free, and clearly labeled with ingredients. To ensure the safety of all students, parents of children with food allergies or dietary restrictions will be notified by the teacher or class parent at least 48 hours in advance of any planned celebration, giving them the opportunity to provide an alternate snack if they wish.

Birthday celebrations involving food will take place ***once per month in each class***. Parents of children with birthdays in that month will coordinate with the teacher and class parent about what they plan to bring, ensuring that parents of students with food allergies are informed 48 hours in advance. Any food brought at the last minute or that does not meet our guidelines will not be accepted.

Non-Food Birthday Celebrations

On your child's birthday, you are welcome to collaborate with the teacher to celebrate in a non-food way. Each teacher will offer a variety of options, which may include:

- Special guest read-aloud
- Sending in a craft
- Choosing a class game
- Having the class sign a T-shirt
- Dance party

Cafeteria:

To promote social well-being while ensuring safety, students with nut allergies will be seated at the allergy-free table to prevent cross-contamination from nuts and nut residue. Students at the allergy-free table may invite a friend to join them, provided the friend is eating a school-provided

lunch since school lunch does not contain nuts. Non allergy students that visit the allergy-free table are not allowed to bring food from home. Students with other food allergies can sit at the allergy-free table provided they do not bring any nuts in their lunch.

School Bus:

Food consumption is not permitted on the school bus to and from school. All food must remain in your child's backpack. Eating on the bus poses both a choking hazard and an allergy risk.

Field Trips:

If your child brings food from home for a field trip, we kindly ask that you avoid packing items that contain nuts. We will remind students that sharing or trading food is not allowed.

Change can be challenging, but the health and safety of our students is our top priority. We ask for your full support in following these new practices and in discussing their importance with your child.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ms. Castillo

Ms. Castillo
Principal