

St. Vincent Martyr School Food Allergy Policy

SVMS is committed to student safety and well-being. This policy is intended to reduce the risk that any child with food allergies will have an allergy-related event/emergency. While the School cannot guarantee that a student will never experience an allergy-related event at school, it has implemented procedures to reduce the risk of exposure to food allergens at school and during school-sponsored activities, and to respond to incidents of life-threatening allergic reactions. The risk of accidental exposure to food allergens can be reduced in the school setting if the School, students, parents, and healthcare providers work together to minimize risks of exposure.

SVMS is a **Tree Nut- and Peanut-Conscious School**.

School Day:

All SVMS classrooms are peanut- and tree nut-free. No food items containing peanuts/tree nuts or made in a facility/manufacturing line with any kind of nut are allowed. This includes food items for children's snack time, birthday treats, holiday parties and celebrations, crafts, party favors and take-home items for Valentines, Christmas, Halloween, etc. This applies to ALL classrooms; preschool thru 8th grade.

LUNCH: Preschool and Kindergarten children eat lunch in their classroom. ALL items in their lunch must be peanut- and tree nut- free and not made in a facility or manufacturing line with any kind of nut.

Cafeteria: The SVMS cafeteria is **not** nut-free. There are designated lunch tables for the children who have an allergy plan for nut or other food allergies. Food allergy parents may opt out of the requirement for their child to sit at this table by submitting a signed, written letter to that effect to the School.

SVMS' lunch provider, Simply Gourmet, only uses products that are free of nut ingredients.

SNACKS: All children eat snacks in their classrooms. ALL food items must be peanut- and tree nut- free and not made in a facility or manufacturing line with any kind of nut.

FIELD TRIPS: ALL food items brought on field trips must be peanut- and tree nut- free and not made in a facility or manufacturing line with any kind of nut.

BIRTHDAY TREATS/STAR STUDENT/CELEBRATIONS: No homemade food items are ever allowed as birthday treats, for class parties and celebrations, etc. ALL food items must be peanut- and tree nut- free and not made in a facility or on a manufacturing line with any kind of nut. ALL food items must be factory individually wrapped. Examples of acceptable food items include individually wrapped packages of certain Oreos, individual bags of certain chips/popcorn, or individual servings of certain Italian Ice. Examples of unacceptable food items include *family size* trays of Oreos, boxes of donuts, and trays of bakery items (including trays of "School Safe cupcakes").

***** 48 hours prior to any food being shared at school (e.g. birthdays, star student celebrations or class parties), a clear image of the ingredient list of any food item must be sent to the entire class by the parent/teacher providing the food. This gives any family with an allergy time to read over the ingredient list and send in an alternative snack if necessary. *****

Advanced notice about food being shared at school is critical not only for students with peanut and tree nut allergies, but also for students with other food allergies, celiac disease, diabetes and more.

No food items may be sent to school or sent home with the children in the form of goodie bags, party favors, holiday gifts, prizes, etc. This includes (but is not limited to) Valentines, Halloween, etc. Valentines with non-food items such as pencils and stickers are okay.

HSA/SVMS Events:

HSA and SVMS school events that take place during regular school hours must only provide food items that are peanut- and tree nut- free and not made in a facility or on a manufacturing line with any kind of nut. This includes events that take place in the classroom, on the playground, in the gym, Dodge Field, and anywhere on campus. Examples of such events include preschool playdates, back to school snack, Kindergarten graduation, Field Day, etc.

HSA and SVMS school events that take place outside of regular school hours (generally evening and weekend ticketed or post-church events) may serve food items that contain peanuts and tree nuts, but HSA must provide appropriate peanut- and tree nut- free food options. These events must have a separate area to serve peanut- and tree nut- free food items, keep these food items in their original packaging (with ingredient labels intact) and have an allergy-educated adult monitor that area to reduce the risk of cross contamination. Examples of such events include Breakfast with Santa, Family Night, Catholic Schools Week Breakfast, concessions for athletic events & school plays, etc.

Food Allergy Family's Role:

- Notify the School of the child's allergies.
- Provide written medical documentation, instructions, and medications as directed by a healthcare provider. A FARE (Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Emergency Care Plan) form must be completed.
- Provide properly labeled medications in the original pharmacy container and promptly replace medications after use or upon expiration.
- Educate the child in the self-management of their food allergy including:
 - safe and unsafe foods;
 - strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods;
 - symptoms of allergic reactions;
 - how and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem;
 - how to read food labels (age appropriate).
- Review policies and procedures with the School Nurse, the child's healthcare provider, and the child (if age appropriate) after a reaction has occurred.
- Provide current emergency contact information and update regularly.
- Notify the School Nurse if the child is allowed to eat lunch at a regular table in the cafeteria (where other students may be eating products containing peanuts, tree nuts and other allergens).
- Provide a clearly labeled bag of factory individually wrapped treats/snacks to be kept in the classroom.
- Review ingredient labels shared by parents/teachers of class snacks, celebrations, birthday treats, etc. and notify the child's teacher prior to the day of the party whether their child can eat the provided snack or must use one from their provided bag of treats/snacks.