Special Dietary Needs

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian,

Odessa School District adheres to the National School Lunch Program guidelines regarding accommodation for special dietary needs. If your child has a medical condition that affects their diet, they can submit a Special Dietary Needs Request Form. All students with dietary disabilities will receive school meals appropriate for their needs. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a disability as "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities" such as eating, or an impairment that affects a major bodily function such as digestion. All students with these types of disabilities will be accommodated, however students' personal or religious preferences cannot be accommodated at this time. All students have the right to refuse certain food items on the lunch menu. Each day for lunch, students are offered 5 meal components including protein, whole grain, fruit, vegetables, and milk. Of these 5 components, students must choose 3, including at least ½ cup of fruit or vegetable. For non-medical dietary preferences, students may refuse any two meal components they do not wish to eat. However, when a medical condition is present, parents are strongly encouraged to submit a Special Dietary Needs Request Form so that their student can be given alternate meals when necessary. If the school district is made aware a meal modification is needed, the school will immediately provide reasonable alternate meal choices to keep the student safe while awaiting the medical statement.

To request special dietary accommodation:

1. Fill out the top section of the Special Dietary Needs Request Form.
2. Bring this form to your medical doctor or other state-recognized medical authority. The medical authority must complete the 'Diet Order' portion of form and sign.
3. Completed forms will include:
    a. Student's name
    b. Description of how the impairment affects the student.
    c. Specific foods to be avoided.
    d. Specific foods to be substituted.
    e. Signature of State-Recognized Medical Authority.
4. Return the completed form to Koree Smith.

For assistance in completing the Special Dietary Needs Request Form please contact Koree Smith at 509-982-2603 ext. 208 or email smithk@odessasd.org.