

Allergy Safety Update 2017-2018

To Parents/Guardians,

An important and enjoyable part of every student's day is their snack and lunch time. In order to keep everyone safe, we want to ensure that we are addressing any concerns regarding food allergies. Given the rise in food allergies, particularly to nut products, in the last several years, the RI Dept. of Education and Health has passed a Peanut Allergy Law mandating that schools have a policy and emergency health plans for students with severe food allergies to ensure safety in the case of a reaction. At this time, there is no law requiring that schools be **entirely** nut free.

As the student population changes each year, we thank you for your understanding that the snack rules in each classroom are subject to change. This year, the classrooms that are "**Nut Free**" include: **Preschool, Kindergarten, First Grade Peanut & Tree Nut. Grades 3, 4, and AfterCare room are Peanut/Tree Nut.** To accomplish this, we ask that the food item your child brings in for their morning or afterschool care snack is nut free. Please see the Safe Snack Guide at www.snacksafely.com for a detailed list of safe options.

For students in Grades 1 through 8 who eat in the lunch-room, we have made a "Nut-Free Zone" to create a safe area for students with allergies to sit while still allowing students without allergies to bring in products that contain nuts if desired. As every child has varying degrees of severity when it comes to food allergies, we do not feel it is necessary to mandate that all students with an allergy sit at the selected tables. ***We need your help parents!*** We are asking you to consider the specific needs of your child. If you believe that your child can be seated safely at a traditional table, please communicate that to us on the form below. However, if you have decided that it is in the best interest of your child to sit at one of the reserved tables in the lunch-room, please indicate that as well. In the interest of ensuring that no student feels isolated, students will be able to invite friends to dine with them at their reserved table once all students are advised of the protocol that must be followed in the "Nut-Free Zone".

And, as always, we thank you for supporting our efforts at safety by not sending in any home-made or store-bought goods for classroom celebrations.

Thank you. Patti Cioe, RN School Nurse

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent Signature: _____

___ My child ***does not have*** to be seated at the Nut Free Zone.

___ My child ***must be*** seated at the Nut Free Zone.