

Please **READ BOTH SIDES** of this page, and complete the Google Sign-Off form to authorize your child's participation, and to share any questions or comments as needed.

Part 1: Food Allergy Policy-Science Classes

September 8, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Needham Public Schools maintains a policy regarding food products in the classroom due to potential allergens and life-threatening reactions. Under this policy, it is imperative that parents or guardians be informed about which food products students will be exposed to during laboratory and classroom activities. Additionally, parents need to grant permission for the use of these products or contact the teacher so that an appropriate alternative or safety plan may be established.

The following list represents the food items that may be handled in science classes in grade 7 for the 2024-2025 school year:

Non Consumed items:

Plant seeds
Corn Starch
Salt
Flowers
Gummy Worms
Playdough
Spaghetti (dry)
Sugar
Food Coloring
Starbursts
Yeast
Chocolate chips

(Consumable) Ice Cream Supplies*

- Flavorings: vanilla, strawberry, chocolate
- Light cream
- Milk (cow, oat)
- Sugar

In addition to the general food allergy information we receive from the school nurse, if any of the items listed above present a concern or pose a threat to your child, please let me know through the Google Sign-Off form

Part 2: Lab Safety - In Classroom

Safety in the science classroom is a priority for students, teachers, and parents. To ensure a safe laboratory environment, a list of rules has been developed and provided to you in this student safety contract. *These rules must be followed at all times.* Failure to do so may result in a class removal. Both you and your parents should read and sign the safety contract below. We will be discussing these safety guidelines further in class.

At the beginning of each lab, safety guidelines will be highlighted for the specific material and procedures in the lab. Here are some general guidelines to review.

1. All school instructions regarding behavior, hand hygiene, etc. must be followed at all times.
2. Conduct yourself in a safe manner at all times. This means no horseplay or joking around. Tools and equipment should be used for appropriate purposes only.
3. Know where the proper safety equipment is. (eyewash, fire blanket, first aid kit)

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4. Wear goggles or gloves as labs require, and as directed by your teacher.
5. Be careful when handling hot glassware or hot plates. Also be aware that hot plates remain hot even when they are shut off.
6. Only mix solutions and chemicals per lab protocol.
7. Do not leave your experiment unattended.
8. Do not touch lab materials to your mouth.
9. Wash your hands before and after labs.
10. Report any accident (even minor cuts) immediately to your teacher.
11. Inform a teacher when there is broken glass, so they can clean it with a dustpan and broom and place it in the glass disposal box.
12. Clean your work area thoroughly after completing your lab. This is essential for the safety of all who use the room.
13. No food or drink (including water) at the lab work area.
14. If you are unclear, ask for help!
15. Be aware of food allergy safety and sign the food allergy safety contract.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know by writing in the form or emailing me at elissa_strauss@needham.k12.ma.us