



FOREST Elementary School

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Dear Parents:

August, 2021

More and more children are diagnosed with food allergies every year. It is estimated that six million children in the US are living with food allergies. A major health issue such as this needs to be taken very seriously in the community and in our schools. It has always been the policy of Forest Elementary to make the safety and well-being of our students our top priority.

Approximately 10% of our students at Forest have food allergies. Some of our students have serious food allergies, which means they can suffer a life-threatening reaction just by touching food containing peanuts or by touching a surface or person that has come in contact with nuts. **Forest is a Nut-Restricted School** and to support this, we have the following safety guidelines in place:

- Please do not send any foods containing peanuts, tree nuts or sesame into school. This applies to lunch, snacks, classroom treats and food for after-school activities. If a nut product is sent to school, it will be sent back home with a reminder. Attached is a list of some safe lunch/snack choices that may be a helpful resource for you. It can also be found on the Forest website and in the office.
- Please do not send any food items to school that have labels indicating “processed/manufactured on equipment/in a facility that also processes nuts” or similar wording. These food products are not safe to have around children with food allergies. If this warning is found on a food item that is sent to school, it will be sent back home with a reminder. Please read all labels before sending an item to school.
- We understand that birthdays are a special time for your child. Forest is a non-food birthday celebration school. If your child would like to bring in something to share with his/her classmates on their special day, we suggest items like stickers, pencils, erasers etc. Or, some teachers may encourage the birthday child to bring in a birthday book to share with the class.
- Classroom holiday parties will be planned with your child’s teacher and parent volunteers. Please remember that Forest’s nut-restricted guidelines apply to food items brought in for parties as well; no foods containing peanuts/tree nuts/sesame and no food produced on shared equipment or in a shared facility are allowed. We also request that you do not bring homemade items in for parties, no matter how safe you think the items are.
- If your child ate nuts or a nut-containing product for breakfast, please make sure that his/her hands are washed with soap and water before leaving for school. *Hand sanitizer or water alone does not do the trick!*
- Please remind your child not to share any food, eating utensils, or food containers with other students.

We appreciate your support of these procedures for the upcoming year. We believe that all families can understand the seriousness of this potentially life-threatening situation and will join us in ensuring that our environment is safe for all of our students. If you have any questions regarding any of these nut-restricted guidelines, please contact me.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy school year.

Sincerely,

Steven Vercellino, Principal

248.785.2068

Farmington
PUBLIC SCHOOLS