

Understanding Branchburg Township Schools'



Food Safety Program

Pre-K-5th

An explanation of the safety, health and wellness guidelines

The goal of the Branchburg Township Schools regarding life-threatening food allergies is to engage in a system-wide effort to:

1. Prevent any occurrence of life-threatening food-based allergic reactions
2. Prepare for any allergic reactions to food
3. Respond appropriately to any food allergy emergencies that arise

Food Safety

The guidelines listed below will be followed during official school hours at Whiton Elementary and Stony Brook School (Pre-K-5)

1. All classrooms are *NUT-free. Nut products may be kept in a student's backpack/lunchbox for later consumption in the lunchroom only.
2. Teachers/staff and substitutes are provided with information regarding students with life threatening food allergies.
3. All food that is brought to school must be consumed only by the student who brought it in. School, lunchroom, and classroom rules will list, "No sharing of food."
4. Unless specifically part of the written Board of Education approved curriculum, food will not be used for classroom activities.
5. Any food sent to school that does not meet these guidelines will be returned home with your child.
6. Students are encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water after lunch and at snack time.
7. On the bus, all food must remain in the students' backpacks.

Snacks

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1. All snacks must be NUT-free. It is important to read labels to see if a snack contains NUTs.
 2. Any snack containing NUTs will be returned to your child's lunchbox and stored back in their backpacks to be sent home or later consumed in the lunchroom.

Birthday Celebrations

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1. In-class birthday celebrations are limited to one per month to recognize all birthdays for that month.
 2. All students are permitted to bring in a NUT-free snack during this time, not to be shared with other students, to participate in the celebration.
 3. Any snack containing NUTs will be returned to your child's lunchbox and stored back in their backpack to be sent home or later consumed in the lunchroom.

*NUTs includes peanuts, tree nuts and nut by-products

Other Classroom Activities (Star of the Week, Secret Reader, etc)

1. No food will be permitted in the classroom as part of the celebration.
2. Consult with your child's teacher for alternative ideas and activities.

PTO Parties

In collaboration with our PTO, four food-free parties may be held during the school year. They include: Halloween; December/Winter Holiday Season; Valentine's Day; and The End of the School Year.

1. The PTO may serve 100% fruit pops at Board of Education approved events (i.e. Field Day).
2. The same food guidelines for birthday celebrations and classroom activities will be followed during PTO parties.
3. No food will be used as gifts or party favors.

Lunchroom Safety

1. Separate seating will be provided in the lunchroom for students with life threatening allergies.
2. Lunchroom tables are cleaned after use daily.
3. Food Allergy poster will be displayed in the lunchroom.

Food safety is a HIGH priority for our school district

For further information, contact the school nurse in your child's school:
Janet Hoffman RN at Whiton Elementary School ~ 908-371-0842 ext. 3080
Debra Warren RN at Stony Brook School ~ 908-722-2400 ext.1050

Guidance for planning events may be found in the Healthy School Celebrations document. See document on Branchburg, Health Services Website

The Branchburg Township Schools cannot guarantee to provide a food-allergen-free environment for all students with life threatening allergies or prevent any harm to students in emergencies. Our goal is to minimize the risk of exposure to food allergens that pose a threat to food allergic students, educate the community, and vigilantly uphold a system wide protocol for responding to the needs of food allergic students.

Our mission is to
“inspire our children to learn, think, grow and excel in life.”