



ST. JAMES SCHOOL

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January 9, 2018

Dear Parents:

To ensure the safety of every student at St. James, our community is establishing a nut-free school policy. There have been many conversations and much discussion about this decision at Parent Association meetings and in individual meetings. The fact of the matter is that we have had a significant increase in the number of students who are dealing with nut allergies. The safety and security of each and every student is a primary responsibility of the school.

To that end, please be advised that as of January 16, 2018, St. James School will adhere to a TOTAL NUT FREE policy from Preschool through Grade 8. This includes all snack, lunch, and in class parties, as well as aftercare/afterschool programs.

Our aim at St. James School is to provide a safe healthy school environment that takes into consideration the needs of all students, including those who may suffer from nut allergies. In accordance with applicable law, it is the policy of St. James School to provide students, through necessary accommodations where required, the opportunity to participate fully in all school programs and activities.

Parents are asked not to send any nut products or nuts (when preparing lunches or snacks) to school to minimize the risk of students having an allergic reaction to nut products. Parents of children, who, historically, have suffered any anaphylactic reaction to any food or insect bites, need to provide the school with an up to date medical action plan; signed by their treating doctor and any necessary medication.

Implementation

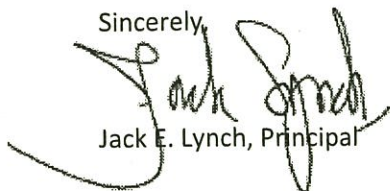
Our school will manage allergies and allergic reactions by:

- Providing professional development for all staff.
- Identifying susceptible students and knowing their allergens.
- Informing the community via the school newsletter and website.
- Requiring parents to provide emergency management plans developed by a medical professional and an Epi – pen if necessary, both of which will be maintained in the school nurse's office for reference as required and a copy taken with them on school field trips.

St. James recognizes the need to help the allergic child avoid foods to which the child is allergic and establish emergency procedures to treat allergic reactions that may occur. In some cases, a student's specific allergy may prevent him/her from eating meals prepared for the general school population.

We ask that all families take the time to read the attached guidelines. Please be sure to contact Mr. Lynch and/or Mrs. Kelly with any questions or concerns regarding this communication.

Sincerely,


Jack E. Lynch, Principal


Cindy Kelly, School Nurse



Guide Lines: Peanut and Tree Nut Free Policy

- **All food** sent to school with students **must be peanut and tree nut free. This includes snack and lunch.**
- **Labels must be read!** If it states it **contains peanuts or tree nuts or may contain traces of peanuts or tree nuts, it is not allowed.**
- **Tree nuts include** almonds, filberts, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, and walnuts.
- **Nutella is a hazelnut spread and not allowed.**
- If ingredient list states: “manufactured on equipment that also processes peanuts and/or tree nuts or manufactured in a facility that also processes peanuts and/or tree nuts” that is allowed for **students without nut allergies** to bring to school.
- If your child brings a snack or lunch containing peanuts or tree nuts to school by mistake they will not be allowed to eat it. They will be given crackers or cereal.