

# The Nativity Early Learning Center is a Peanut/Nut Free School

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Food allergies are on the rise and can cause a severe, systemic, potentially fatal allergic reaction. This is not only through direct ingestion, but can be through smell, and touching of only trace amounts. We want to do all we can to eliminate the possibility of such an occurrence in our center in the future.

## Why is my child's school peanut/nut free?

The rationale for peanut/nut free schools has to do with the somewhat unique nature of these allergies. Most people with food allergies -- even severe allergies -- can manage their allergies by simply not eating foods that have their allergen in them. They read labels, don't eat food if they know its origins, and ask questions to stay aware of cross-contamination.

People with peanut and tree nut allergies follow all these steps, but there are two limits to this approach. First, it's possible for people with these allergies to react to traces of nut dust in the air. Second, nuts are full of natural oils that leave residues. While these residues can be removed with common household cleaners, it can be difficult or impossible to clean tables in the middle of lunch, for example, or for school staff to know to clean oils off of tainted walls or doorknobs during the school day.

We require that you do not send any lunch items, snacks or birthday treats which contain peanuts or nuts or are processed on shared equipment. We request your cooperation and thank you in advance for adhering to this policy for the safety of all children.

If you accidentally send a peanut and/or nut product with your child (ren), we will send home a friendly reminder. Whenever possible, we will label and return the item that contained nut.

Thank you so much,

Nicole Clausen and the Staff at the Nativity Early Learning Center

