

August 2014

Dear Parents,

Due to a high number of students diagnosed with peanut and tree nut allergies, all classrooms and common areas at Happy Hollow School are peanut and nut free.

The severity of the allergic reaction to nuts in these students can be life threatening. Because of this, we must do everything in our power to provide the safest environment possible for this student.

Research and literature suggest the best way to provide a safe environment for students with allergies is to enlist the support of the class and parents in making the classroom free of threatening foods. We are asking your assistance and understanding as we work to create this environment. Classroom rules regarding food are as follows:

Any food brought into the classroom for celebrations or other class projects must be store bought and clearly labeled peanut / nut free

No homemade foods may be brought into the classroom for celebrations or other class projects

Snacks of fruits and vegetables may be brought into the classroom. Please make sure they are washed well

If there is any question regarding the safety of the food it must be brought to the nurses' office for inspection

There are NO specific restrictions on foods consumed in the cafeteria

Please note that students are free to eat peanut / nut products in the cafeteria. However, we will maintain a nut free area in the cafeteria for our students with life threatening allergies. At these tables all peanut / tree nut products are strictly forbidden.

A final note about hand washing

A student with a severe food allergy does not have to ingest the food to develop a reaction. There are cases in which a child may have a life threatening reaction with exposure to airborne particles or by touching food residue. Please talk with your child about the importance of hand washing after meals. Not only does hand washing remove any life threatening allergens present on the hands, it promotes good hygiene habits.

We appreciate your support and understanding of our allergy guidelines. With your help, we can make this year a happy, healthy one for all the students of Happy Hollow.

Please feel free to contact the school nurses if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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Happy Hollow School Nurses

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