

# Penns Manor Area School District



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Dear Parents:

Food allergies among school age children are a growing concern in schools across America. The National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have estimated that food allergies have accounted for 150 deaths and more than 125,000 emergency room visits each year. A major health issue such as this must be taken seriously. It is our top priority to ensure a safe learning environment for all students of the Penns Manor Area School District.

At the July 9, 2015 meeting, our school board adopted a nut-free policy for the Penns Manor Area Elementary School. A child with a serious nut allergy can suffer a reaction merely by touching a nut-containing food or product. Therefore, the following administrative regulations are in effect for Penns Manor Area Elementary School:

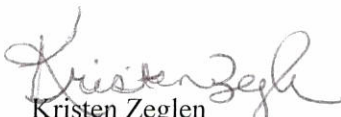
- All nuts, peanut butter, or foods containing peanuts or peanut butter to be eaten as snacks in the classroom or packed in lunches are prohibited.
- We are requesting that parents/student avoid including nuts and nut products in lunches and snacks in grades PreK-5. NO HOMEMADE TREATS OR FOOD ITEMS, for students, will be brought into our school either by parents or staff. All treats must be commercially prepared and packaged for distribution with intact ingredient labels. Treats may be distributed by the classroom teacher for special occasions, such as birthdays or holiday parties, as long as the treats are commercially prepared and packaged with intact ingredient labels. Precautions for students who have life threatening allergies may have more specific regulations depending on the type(s) of allergy.
- Any food item brought into school that contains a nut product will be returned home in a labeled *Ziploc* bag. We understand that this may happen accidentally. In this case, the student will be given an alternative nut-free lunch option from our cafeteria.
- All classroom activities, including art, experiments, or projects must not contain any nut products. This includes bird feeders, peanut shells, peanut butter jars, or any other peanut-related products or materials. Please do not send any of these products into the school with your child. Any classroom pets must be provided with nut-free foods and bedding.
- All children are asked to wash their hands with soap and water after eating a peanut product for breakfast before coming to school. Use soap: water alone does not do the trick!

This is a learning process for all of us, but we trust that you understand how deeply important it is to respect and adhere to these regulations. If you have any questions or concerns about food-allergy-related issues, please do not hesitate to contact either one of us. Additional information is available on our website.

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

Sincerely,

  
Dave Grimaldi  
Elementary Principal

  
Kristen Zeglen  
Assistant Principal