



## Food Safety Expectations

In order to help protect the health and safety of our students with life-threatening food allergies and to contribute to the health and academic success of all students, the Parkway School District has adopted new district-wide Food Safety Expectations. Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, all schools will promote these best practice guidelines.

- **Classrooms should be food-free whenever possible.** Consumption of food in the classroom is strongly discouraged due to allergy and sanitation concerns.
  - Students may continue to bring a snack for their own consumption, especially students with an individual health plan. Students are encouraged to bring healthy snacks to promote health and wellness. Parents may be advised to send in snacks without a particular allergen, if needed, to prevent cross-contamination, which could impact safety for food allergic students.
  - Schools may alternatively choose to order healthy snacks for classrooms or to support hungry students from Parkway Food and Nutrition Services. Any snacks provided for class-wide or individual consumption must be selected with extreme care. In addition, the school nurse will be consulted to identify students with known food allergies.
  - Careful cleaning of surfaces with soap and water after consumption of food is essential.
  
- **Food may not be brought from home for sharing class-wide.**
  
- **Avoid use of food in the curriculum.** If food use is **essential** in a lesson or the curriculum, teachers will alert students and parents through the syllabus, letters and emails home, and class announcements. In addition, the school nurse will be informed and consulted to identify students with known food allergies. Teachers will make alternative lesson or curricular plans if students with known food allergies could be adversely impacted.
  
- **Find safe and inclusive ways to celebrate without food.** To maintain healthy learners, the safest celebrations occur without food. ***Birthdays celebrations at school and holiday celebrations at school will not include food.*** Schools are encouraged to be creative in celebrating without food. See Attachment A for nonfood celebration ideas.
  
- **Avoid using food as a reward or motivator.**

- **Field trips should follow protocols for food safety.** If food consumption is part of a field trip, teachers will alert students, parents and the school nurse in advance through the syllabus, letters and emails home, and class announcements.
- **School-sponsored clubs, athletics and after school activities will use food carefully.** All extra-curricular activities will take precautions to protect students with food allergies. Contents of all foods shared in these activities should be clearly labeled and no food prepared at home will be shared. Activity sponsors and coaches should be aware of students with known allergies and be familiar with each student's allergy action plan and emergency medication. Avoid serving foods with known allergens and notify parents and students when participating in a service activity where students may come in contact with food.

These expectations do not preclude giving assistance to students who are hungry. If a staff member suspects that a student does not have access to adequate nutritious meals, the counselor or administrator will be notified. Schools will work with each student to find solutions to the problem. Snacks provided to hungry students should be clearly labeled and not contain common allergens such as peanuts and tree nuts. Staff should inquire about food allergies prior to giving any food to students.

## **Birthday Celebrations without Food Attachment A**

How one classroom teacher decided to celebrate birthdays:

<http://fairydustteaching.com/2013/01/reggio-emilia-birthdays/>

Students bring “me bag” to share on their birthdays:

<http://www.teachingace.com/birthday-celebrations-without-food/>

### **Non-food Celebration Ideas**

#### **Zero-cost Alternatives:**

- Sit by friends
- Read outdoors
- Teach the class
- Enjoy class outdoors
- Have an extra recess\*
- Read to a younger class
- Make deliveries to the office\*
- Listen to music while working
- Play a favorite game or puzzle
- Eat lunch with a staff member
- Dance to favorite music in the classroom\*
- Get “free choice” time at the end of the day
- Listen with a headset to a book on audiotape
- Have a teacher perform special skills (i.e., sing)
- Have a teacher read a special book to the class

#### **Low-cost Alternatives:**

- Select a paperback book
- Enter a drawing for donated prizes
- Get stickers, pencils, and other school supplies
- Receive a video store/movie theatre coupon
- Receive a “mystery pack” (notepad, sports cards)

## Attachment B

### Non-food Fundraising Ideas

- Candles
  - Book sale
  - Cookbook
  - Walkathon\*
  - Student artwork
  - Stuffed animals
  - Stadium pillows
  - School photo ID
  - Educational games
  - Shopping donation programs
  - School mascot temporary tattoos
  - Faculty and/or student talent show\*
  - Teacher/student sports competition
  - Auction of donated goods and services
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- Non-Latex balloon bouquets for special occasions
  - Bottled water with the schools own label
  - Refillable water bottle with the school's logo
  - Glow in the dark novelties
  - Greeting cards especially designed by students
  - School calendars important school dates listed
  - Party bags for kids' birthday parties filled with non-food novelties
  - Sale of flowers and balloons for the families to purchase to acknowledge event or achievement
  - School spirit items – tee-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, lanyards, pennants, bracelets and caps
  - Growing and/or selling flowers and plants for holidays such as Valentine's Day

*\*These activities have the added benefit of promoting physical activity for students.*

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