

POLICY: NUT FREE SCHOOL POLICY

As we face a growing number of children dealing with food allergies and, specifically, potentially life-threatening peanut and tree nut allergies, Stamford Elementary School will be a peanut and tree nut free school. At Stamford Elementary School, we understand that many of our students are not old enough to make sound and safe decisions when it comes to what should go into their mouths and are less able to manage their allergies independently. Many elementary school-aged children are not yet aware of potential food allergies. While our faculty and staff do an excellent job of sanitizing playing surfaces, toys, tables, and chairs and monitoring snacks and lunches brought into the school, there are some children within who could have a serious life-threatening allergic reaction from contact with even a microscopic amount of the offending foods. **Therefore, we have decided to make Stamford Elementary School a peanut and tree nut (Brazil nuts, almonds, cashews, pistachios, walnuts, pecans, and hazel nuts) free school.**

All snacks and school lunches served by the school will be peanut and tree nut free. We also ask that no peanut or tree nut products be brought into school. Foods that are sent in for snack or lunch should be carefully checked to make sure they DO NOT indicate that they “contain or may contain peanuts, tree nuts, or peanut oils (i.e., arachic oil, arachis, arachis hypogaea, or hypogaeic acid)”. Foods that are intended to be shared among the classes must NOT “contain or possibly contain peanuts or tree nuts” nor may they be “made in a facility or on equipment that processes peanuts or tree nuts”. We realize and regret this policy eliminates the sharing of homemade goodies, but the HEALTH AND SAFETY of our students must take priority. Families can help ensure that our school stays peanut and tree nut free by reading packaging labels and reminding children not to share food with other children at school. Parents may also elect to send in a non-food treat (craft, game, or project) or visit the class as a guest reader as a safe and healthy alternative. If your child has eaten peanuts/nuts before coming to school, please be sure your child’s hands and face have been washed prior to getting on the bus or entering the school.

Like the Stamford School, buses that transport Stamford elementary and high school students are also nut-free zones.

The goal of this policy is to promote the wellness and safety of all students and limit any opportunity for any child to be exposed to foods that could harm him/her.

We appreciate your cooperation with this policy -- the sacrifice of not having peanut or tree nut products in the school is a small one to make compared to the consequence a child with severe allergies could face.

APPROVED: December 10, 2014
ADOPTED: January 8, 2015
AMENDED: September 10, 2015