



SCHOOL-WIDE FOOD POLICY FOR
WALTER MILLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

As you are aware, children love celebrating birthdays and holidays with their classmates. However, with the increasing number of students with dietary restrictions, we must implement a school-wide food policy for such events. In an effort to accommodate the medical and food allergy needs of our students and provide them with a safe and healthy learning environment, we are recommending the following regarding **birthday parties and special events** (we are not restricting any foods that your child may bring in for their own lunch or snack):

- Only clearly labeled, store-bought food items will be allowed in the classroom. Homemade foods will not be allowed (reduces the risk of accidental cross-contamination).
- Foods containing nuts (peanuts/tree nuts/foods cooked in nut oils) will not be allowed.
- Low-calorie treats, i.e. fruit, can be a healthy alternative to high-calorie, sugary foods.
- The teacher may avoid or limit food items depending on the health needs of his/her classroom (see below).
- All food items must be discussed with the classroom teacher via email at least 3 days prior to the event. Unexpected food items may not be distributed.
- In the event that a child's birthday is in the summer, it may be celebrated during the school year.
- Food shall not be shared between students. This also applies to lunch and snack time. Food may not be sent to the cafeteria for children to share.
- It is a parent's responsibility to provide the school with updated health records especially as it pertains to food allergies/restrictions.
- If your child has a food allergy, you may provide the teacher with an alternative packaged food treat (with a long shelf life) in anticipation of such events. Consider a "party in a bag" (child brings his/her own treats in a bag) for holiday parties/special events.
- If the teacher anticipates providing food as part of a classroom activity that may adversely affect a particular child, the teacher may contact the family of that child prior to the activity.

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Name of Student _____ Teacher _____

_____ My child has no dietary restrictions and can participate in all birthday/holiday food events.

_____ My child has a food restriction or allergy to _____, but can participate in birthday/holiday food events with the following exceptions _____.

_____ My child has an allergy to _____. My child cannot have food that is not provided by me. I will send alternative snacks for my child.

_____ My child will need to sit in an allergy-free table in the **cafeteria** for lunch (NOTE: This will mean that your child will be moved from the table shared by his/her classmates and placed at another table with a buddy).

Parent signature Phone email address

*****NOTE FROM THE CLASSROOM TEACHER*****

The foods to avoid sending to my classroom this year include _____

PLEASE READ FOOD LABELS CAREFULLY AND AVOID SENDING ANY ITEM TO SCHOOL THAT CONTAINS NUTS OR THE FOOD/ALLERGEN LISTED ABOVE.