

Food Allergies & Peanut Policy 2022/23

Food Allergies

North Star Montessori Academy takes food allergies seriously. We understand that food allergies can be life threatening. Recognizing that the risk of accidental exposure to foods can be reduced in the school setting, we are committed to working with students, parent(s)/guardian(s), and physicians to minimize risks and provide a safe educational environment for food-allergic students.

It is our goal to provide a safe learning environment for all students. Parents are encouraged to contact the Principal if they have questions pertaining to an allergy that could affect their child's health and safety at school.

Peanut Allergies

There are several children attending our school who suffer a life-threatening allergy to peanuts and tree nuts. As a result, the North Star Montessori Academy is a **peanut aware school**.

What does peanut aware mean?

As a peanut aware school, several precautions are factored into the daily routine in order to reduce the risk of accidental exposure. A nut-free table is designated in the cafeteria, a school-wide program to educate students about food allergies has been implemented, specific safety precautions are implemented to protect individual students based on need and the staff is provided training in order to properly respond in the event that a reaction occurs. Additionally, steps are taken to ensure that peanut/tree nut products are not served at school-wide activities in which allergic students may be in danger.

Are peanut/tree nut products allowed in school?

Yes. However, in order to reduce the risk of exposure for students who possess an allergy to peanut/tree nut products, these items are not sold in the school lunch program, at extracurricular events or provided in school-wide activities. Students can bring peanut/tree nut products to school for lunch, however these items are not allowed to be eaten at the nut free table.

In some grades, parents are asked to voluntarily refrain from sending food items containing peanuts, peanut products, almonds, cashews, walnuts or other tree nuts to school because the risk of harm is high for individuals or groups of students. In those instances, parents may also be asked to help ensure that snack items intended for sharing not include these items, as they pose a danger (including anaphylactic shock) to some of our students. Parents of these grades will be notified.

Thank you for your consideration and support in this matter. We recognize the inconvenience that these guidelines present for families and are appreciative of your help and cooperation. If you have any question please reach out to Andrea Ballard at aballard@nsacd.com or (906)226-0156.