

Dr. Joyanne D. Miller Elementary School

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IMPORTANT: Food Allergies and Classroom Celebrations

As we begin the new school year, please be aware that we have a number of students who have potentially life-threatening food allergies. Children with food allergies can have a severe reaction with exposures to even tiny amounts of an allergen. It is our goal to ensure that every student in our school be able to learn in a safe and supportive environment. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to limit certain foods entering the classrooms for parties and celebrations.

What is a food allergy?

Food allergy is an immune system reaction that occurs soon after eating a certain food. Even a tiny amount of the allergy-causing food can trigger signs and symptoms such as digestive problems, hives, or swollen airways. In some people, a food allergy can cause severe symptoms or even a life-threatening reaction called anaphylaxis.

Are food allergies curable?

No. There is no cure for food allergies. For this reason, it is important that food allergens are avoided. It takes dedication from the parent of the child, school staff, and you.

I want to send in treats for my child's birthday or holiday party – what do I do?

All classroom parties and celebrations will be NUT FREE. This includes products with advisory statements on the label. No homemade items permitted. Cupcakes must have a label on the container clearly stating the product is peanut and tree nut free. Also, please refer to our Miller School homepage listed under "Schools" on our district website www.eht.k12.nj.us for a complete list of our approved treats. Always consult with your child's teacher or nurse regarding any other kinds of food allergies in the classroom before sending in treats. Remember, treats do not necessarily have to be food (pencils, stickers, erasers, etc. are okay in treat bags instead of candy).

As a parent, you have an important role in the safety of food allergy students. We want students to be able to celebrate birthdays and holidays – they are meant to be fun! We realize it takes longer to find appropriate treats, but your consideration is greatly appreciated on behalf of the staff, students, and parents of a food allergy student.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Thanks for your support in this important matter!