

SWEDESBORO-WOOLWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

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FOOD/PARTIES SCHOOL PROCEDURE

2018 - 2019

As you are aware, **the District no longer permits outside food into school for school parties or for school birthday celebrations.** Although this is a fun way to celebrate, for many of our children this fun celebration can actually put a child's safety at risk.

Food for many children can often be an unrealized danger. Over 160 different foods have been identified as having the potential to cause an allergic reaction. In fact, in the U.S., food allergies claim an estimated 150 lives, result in 2,000 hospitalizations, and 30,000 emergency room visits a year (U.S. Federal Drug Administration). Many children in our District experience severe reactions to a variety of food products, including but not limited to: eggs, milk, peanuts, tree nuts, fruits, corn, chocolate, etc. to the point that it can be life threatening. Not all of these foods need to be ingested to result in such a reaction. This is a major health issue that must be taken very seriously, and it has always been the policy of this school district to make the safety and well-being of all of our students our top priority while learning in our classrooms. So, instead of sending in cupcakes to celebrate one's birthday, please consider themed pencils, stickers, or a favorite book that your child's teacher can read to the class. We can still acknowledge and celebrate your child's birthday in class without food. Instead of parties with tons of food, we can structure our parties to have tons of games and crafts!

However, the District will pre-identify specific whole group/grade celebrations where the school can effectively monitor our children's safety, and the school can communicate with parents what is being brought into the school environment. For example, on a Fun Day, we may celebrate with popsicles, Greek Olympics (popcorn), Mother's Day Tea (unsweetened iced tea and graham crackers). These are whole school events, and we can manage this type of event to ensure the safety of every child. The school will communicate well in advance the food item (the brand of popsicles, brand of graham crackers, the brand of popcorn, etc.) as well as the ingredients to parents. Unfortunately, we cannot manage the safety of all of our children in unstructured party celebration environments. **Therefore, only specific school/district approved/sponsored events will permit any food item at all to enter our school classrooms.**

Finally, we do ask that parents refrain from bringing in hot fast food purchased happy meals and lunches for their child/children. As you can imagine, this creates quite a disruption to others in the lunchroom. Students may purchase their lunch from the school or bring in a packed lunch from home.

TAKING PICTURES IN SCHOOL

2018 - 2019

The District understands that large scale student programs are special and cherished memories in all of our lives. We all share in that excitement! The District also understands that you will want to take pictures of your child during their 6th grade graduation, the 5th grade play, the choir or band concert, etc. However, we **STRONGLY** discourage you from taking individual pictures of anyone other than your child on our school property, and we **STRONGLY** discourage you from posting pictures of anyone other than your own child on social media without the specific, expressed permission of that child's parent. Please understand that there are many families who do not want their child photographed, videotaped, or posted on social media. It is important for us to respect all of our parents' preferences and realize that taking and posting photos/videos can be harmful and potentially put a child's safety at risk. (Absolutely no photos will be permitted by anyone other than identified District staff during smaller-scale events held within classrooms such as American Education Week. Only school identified staff or yearbook staff will be permitted to take photos in any individual classroom. (The school district is aware of which students have permission to be photographed and those who do not.)