

Dear Parent /Guardian,

Many of our students have food allergies that have the potential for a wide range of reactions from mild to severe and life threatening. The level of sensitivity varies from ingestion to merely smelling it.

The most common foods that cause allergies are, peanuts, tree nuts, dairy, eggs, fish, shell fish, wheat, soy and sesame. Arts Academy at Estrella Mountain has a strong commitment to keep our students safe, and healthy. Our goal is to minimize accidental exposure, and maximize our ability to respond promptly in the event of an emergency. We have several employees that are trained on emergency response devices, EPI pens. We will educate students, in an age appropriate manner, the seriousness of life-threatening allergies and the importance of not sharing, or trading foods.

We recognize that we can not completely eliminate the potential of accidental exposure and attempting to do so, would create a false sense of security. Nevertheless, we can take steps that will minimize the potential of accidental exposure, and we will do so in a manner that protects the privacy of the student health status.

* Classroom parties are still allowed, we encourage the use of non-food items, such as, trinkets, stickers, pencils, erasers, and even a gift bag with the intention of being taken home. Any food item brought to a classroom, should be approved prior to the party, to make sure all food is safe for all students
* Each teacher who has a student with a life-threatening allergy in his/her class will be notified and keep this information in an emergency folder, all parent/guardian in that class will also be notified.
* We are a nut free campus.
* It is the parent/guardian responsibility to complete an allergy/ special diet form. These forms must be signed by a medical professional detailing the allergies and what specific foods to avoid. The cafeteria staff is trained, and will accommodate the student at meal service. You can speak to the office staff, the nurse or contact me.
* An approved snack list has been created, and we ask that only these snacks in the indicated size be sent to the classroom, these all meet the nutrition standards for SMART SNACKS IN SCHOOLS and were developed by USDA for schools.
* Parent/Guardian should teach their students to not share food, snacks, lunches, drinks and utensils.

These procedures will be reevaluated as needed to determine where improvement can be made and we will continue to make our school a safe school environment for all students.

We look forward to a great year! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me

Jenny Michael, Food Service Director

Arts Academy at Estrella Mountain

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