



Harford County Public Schools

102 S. Hickory Avenue ♦ Bel Air, MD 21014 410-838-7300 Fax 410-893-2478

Robert M. Tomback, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

Date: _____

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Food allergies affect more than twelve million Americans of all ages and backgrounds. Eight foods account for 90% of all food allergic reactions; these are milk, egg, peanut, tree nut (nuts that grow on trees include almonds, Brazil nuts, cashew, hazelnuts, pecan and walnuts), fish, shellfish, soy and wheat. This letter is being sent to the entire school community to heighten awareness of this growing problem. If your student's class is affected, a separate letter will be sent to alert you. We are committed to creating the safest environment for all of our students and as a result we are instituting the following guidelines for all affected classrooms:

- Peanut/tree nut allergy managed tables may be established in our cafeterias. Students whose lunches contain peanut/tree nut products including peanut butter will be asked to sit away from these areas. A symbol or sign will identify these areas.
- Do not send in any peanuts, tree nuts or nut butter to be eaten as snacks in classrooms that have been identified as allergy managed. It is fine to send in these foods for lunch provided they are eaten away from the allergy managed zone.
- Non-food rewards for celebrations, i.e. pencils, stickers, etc. are strongly encouraged.
- Do not enclose any candy or other treat with holiday cards.
- Do not send in any classroom projects that involve peanut butter or peanut shells.
- Advise your students to wash their hands if they have eaten peanut butter for breakfast. We will encourage hand washing after lunch as well. Hand washing should be done with soap and water since rub-on hand sanitizers are ineffective in removing allergens.
- Students are not to share lunches.
- No home baked products are permitted in the school.
- Teasing or bullying of food allergic students will not be tolerated.

We trust you will respect and adhere to these guidelines and help educate your student about the severity of food allergies. A food allergic student relies on the respectfulness and assistance of the student community who act as body guards and observers- providing an extra level of safety for the student. For more information about food allergies, you may visit www.foodallergy.org, www.faankids.org or www.faanteen.org . Please contact us at anytime if you have questions or concerns about food allergies.

Sincerely,

School Nurse