



Clark Public Schools

Valley Road School

150 Valley Road • Clark, New Jersey 07066
732-388-7900 (Telephone) • 732-388-6209 (Facsimile)

Joseph Beltramba

Principal

Edward Grande

Superintendent of Schools

October 20, 2017

Dear Parents,

You've all read the headlines and seen the news stories: food allergies are a growing concern in schools across America. Millions of children – children who are perfectly healthy and normal in every other way – must watch every single bite they eat, or risk suffering a severe or even life threatening reaction. A major health issue such as this one needs to be taken very seriously, and it has always been the procedures of this school to make the safety and well being of our students our top priority.

Some children in our school have serious food allergies. One allergy that claims more lives each year than any other is an allergy to peanuts and tree nuts. A child with this serious allergy can suffer a reaction merely by touching a nut or peanut-containing food. Therefore, we are putting the following safety guidelines into effect for your child's class:

- Please do not send any nuts, peanuts, peanut butter or foods containing peanuts, nuts or peanut butter to be eaten as snacks in the classroom. It is fine to send these products for lunch, which is eaten in the cafeteria as there is a separate nut-free table for students that need it. This will allow non allergic children to enjoy these snacks in a controlled environment and maintain safety in the classrooms.
- Please read the ingredients on the packaging of any snacks sent to the classroom. The ingredient label will sometimes say that although there are no peanuts in this product, it may have been in contact with peanut products on the processing equipment or during the manufacturing process. These products should be avoided in peanut free classrooms.
- Please remind your child not to share food, utensils or containers.
- Please share with your child that if they eat peanut butter or peanut products for lunch to please wash their hands with soap and water prior to going to recess or returning to the classroom. (Water alone is not enough). Similarly, if your child ate peanut butter for breakfast, we would greatly appreciate your making sure that his/her hands are washed with soap and water before leaving for school.
- All class projects should not include any food items.
- This is a learning process for all of us, but we trust that you understand how deeply important it is to respect and adhere to these guidelines. If throughout the course of the year you have any questions or concerns about food allergy-related issues, please do not hesitate to contact either one of us.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy school year,

Sincerely,

Mr. Joseph Beltramba
Principal

Mrs. K. McLean
School Nurse