



FOOD ALLERGY INFORMATION

The possibility of severe allergic reactions to peanuts/tree nuts and their derivatives is a well documented medical fact. As many of you already know, individual responses to touching, inhaling or eating a peanut product can be life-threatening. While here at school we may not be able to totally prevent allergic reactions, we can dramatically reduce both the likelihood of such reactions occurring and the severity of consequences if they do occur.

The number of children in our school with such allergies has increased over the past couple of years. The level of sensitivity and the types and severity of reactions vary considerably among individuals with food allergies. With this in mind, beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, St. Malachy Parish School has established a policy to help assure the health and safety of students with allergies.

All classrooms will be a peanut/tree nut free area with a sign posted outside the classroom. Food or snacks brought in for morning snacks, parties or school projects that are held within the classrooms are required to be peanut/tree nut free. Room mothers will be aware that the classrooms are peanut/tree nut free.

Sack lunches brought in from home will be allowed to have peanut butter sandwiches in the bag or lunch box. Items brought in for lunch that contain peanuts or tree nuts **MUST** be kept in the bag or lunch box while in the classroom. Students that have these items for lunch may not eat at the designated peanut free tables in the cafeteria. If there is an occasion when lunch is eaten in the classroom, peanut butter sandwiches or other peanut/tree nut products **WILL NOT** be allowed in the sack lunch nor served for hot lunch. This action will lessen the possibility of any cross-contamination with in the classroom.

Designated peanut/tree nut free tables are established in the cafeteria. The north end table of each row will be the designated table for those with severe food allergies. Other students are allowed to eat at the designated table if their lunch is peanut/tree nut free.

Again, these measures are in place to help reduce the likelihood of an allergic reaction from occurring here at school. Effective prevention and clear communication are very important. Hopefully, these measures will eliminate confusion of about what food is allowed in the classrooms.

Students with an EPI-PEN for any type of allergy must have it available in the clinic for the entire year.