

Dear Parents,

Food allergies affect more than seven million Americans of all ages and backgrounds. Peanut and nut allergies are among the most common and can cause life threatening reactions. A copy of this letter is included in our parent handbook and is reprinted each year in the Wildcat Watch to heighten awareness of this growing problem. If your child's class is affected a separate letter will be sent to alert you. We at Homestead Wakefield Elementary School 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:

Please do not send in any peanuts, peanut butter or foods containing peanuts to be eaten as snacks in the classrooms that have been identified as peanut free.

Please alert teachers a few days ahead of any celebrations that involve food so that the food-allergic child may provide his/her own safe treat.

Please do not enclose any candy or other treats with holiday cards.

Please do not send in any classroom projects that involve peanut butter or peanut shells.

Please advise you children to wash their hands if they have eaten peanut butter for breakfast. We will encourage hand washing after lunch as well.

The compassion and kindness of our students and families continue to be evident in our school each day. We trust you will respect and adhere to these guidelines and help to instruct your student about the dangers of food allergies. By instituting these measures, we will create a student body that is sensitive and aware of this emerging health concern. We are all learning and continuing to adapt to best serve our students. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about food allergies.

Sincerely,

Mary Nasuta, RN  
Barrie Somerfield, RN