

Shrewsbury Borough School

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parent and Guardians:

I write to inform you of some changes that we have made and will be making regarding candy, snacks, and food during the school day. In an effort to create a more healthy and more inclusive environment for all of our students, I am asking for your support and cooperation as members of our parent community. At Shrewsbury Borough School we respect the uniqueness of our students and are always prepared to meet their needs during their time here at SBS. One of our core responsibilities is ensuring the health and safety of all of our students during the school day. How we approach our students with allergies and food sensitivities is of utmost importance to all of us as a community of educators and learners. I feel the strongest obligation to ensure that our students are safe, but I also feel that we should be highly attuned to the subtleties around candy, snacks, and food that may not promote an inclusive culture and climate.

Rest assured, your children will still be allowed to bring in food that you give them to eat. However, I have asked our faculty and staff to end the practice of giving candy, treats, and snacks to your children during the school day completely. I have also asked that they consider ways to eliminate using food in their instructional practices and changing the practice of developing food-centric curricula and events. First, while treats are fun, we should not rely on rewards or incentives to promote good educational and behavioral practices. Second, some snacks are dangerous to some children and this can be a barrier to inclusion for some of our students. While you may be unaware on a particular day that your child received candy or treats during the school day, other parents and students are acutely aware when they are unable to enjoy this kind of treat. I don't believe that any student should ever feel less a part of their class or isolated by something as simple as a treat.

As parents who may wish to send a special treat in for class parties and celebrations, I am asking for your cooperation and assistance in keeping all of our students safe during such activities. Annually, we provide information to parents about students who have allergies and food sensitivities for the purposes of planning parties and events. If you should ever have a question about allergies or food sensitivities, please contact your homeroom teacher or the school nurse for more information.

After a great deal of feedback and consideration regarding our current practice and promotion of bake sales as a fundraising mechanism, I have also decided to make some necessary changes to the way that we approach them. Moving forward, I will approve "snack sales" that offer a broader range of options for all of our students. Groups seeking approval must include snacks that every student in our school could enjoy, and more importantly, that makes every student here feel included and valued as a member of our school community. I also feel that one "snack sale" per month is reasonable and still affords all of our students the special opportunity associated with our current bake sales. Groups seeking to hold a "snack sale" will have to clearly label items for sale and be able to provide the important ingredient and manufacturing information that students with allergies and sensitivities will need to make healthy and safe choices when purchasing snacks. We will also assist groups with developing a two table system to eliminate any risk of cross-contamination.

Please find below some options for items that are considered safe for "snack sales" and for parties and special snacks, and some additional recommendations:

SAFE Baked Goods:

Cherrybrook Kitchens

Divvies

Hostess Cupcakes

Rice Krispie Treats

Dunkin Donuts----most, please inquire

Pillsbury Cake Mix---Funfetti, Dark Chocolate, Devil's Food, White, Yellow

Pillsbury Frosting---Confetti Funfetti, Chocolate Fudge, Pink Vanilla Funfetti

SAFE Snacks:

Pretzels

Goldfish

Popcorn

Baked goods from home should come with the ingredients listed & attached.

This list applies only to students with Peanut/TreeNut allergies.

This list DOES NOT apply to students with other food allergies, ie: egg/milk/wheat/soy/artificial coloring/seeds/legumes/chickpeas/lentils/shellfish/fresh fruits/and other dairy.

Please contact me directly at any time should you have a question or concern about these changes as they relate to the health and safety of our all of our students here at SBS. I'm confident that as caring parents and members of our SBS community you will join me in these minimal changes to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our children.

Sincerely,

Brent A. MacConnell
Superintendent