



## ST CHRISTINE SCHOOL CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

### MEDICAL FOOD RESTRICTIONS

St. Christine School Child Nutrition Program provides meal substitutions for students known to have a life-threatening food allergy. To help us meet this need, we ask that you proceed as described below.

USDA regulations require special dietary accommodations in school meals for children whose disabilities restrict their diet. Regulations also requires a signed physician's statement be on file that supports the child's life threatening food allergy (and thus constitutes a disability). The physician's statement must identify:

- \* Child's disability;
- \* Major life activity affected by the disability;
- \* Food or foods to be omitted from the child's diet: AND
- \* Food or foods that must be substituted.

The school is unable to provide food substitutions or modifications without an adequate physician's statement. Under no circumstances can the food service department decide what substitutions are appropriate or change a medical diet prescription order.

In the case of a known life-threatening food allergy, most health care providers recommend students only eat foods provided by the parent or guardian.

The school is **not able** to provide substitutions for food allergies that **are not** considered a life threatening disability or food intolerances or personal preference.

We understand the importance of a life threatening food allergy and want to make sure we all understand what our responsibilities are.

It is the parent's responsibility to review the monthly menu and contact the Lunch Coordinator with questions regarding specific content of food items (330-792-0438). If there is something on the menu that you do not want your child to eat, you will need to provide them with a packed lunch for that day. With specific allergies, the item can be removed and substituted if an order from the physician is provided. This system is best when the student is willing and able to self-regulate. However for students with life-threatening reactions, it remains safest to bring all their own food to school and not risk an error.

We do not ban any food from the school setting and we are NOT a Peanut/Nut-Free school. Banning any food item creates a false sense of security and we cannot regulate what hundreds of families are sending to school with their children.