

December 3, 2015

Dear CREC Families,

I hope that your family is enjoying a happy and safe holiday season. Prior to the holiday weekend, we sent home a letter about nut and peanut allergies in our schools. It has come to our attention that our letter was interpreted in a manner that we did not intend. Moving forward, we will establish nut sensitive protocols, but not completely restrict nuts in our schools. We apologize for any confusion or concerns that our communication caused. I am writing today to clarify our district-wide plan and to provide a more complete explanation for why we are requesting your support in this effort.

Schools across the state are establishing protocols to deal with this difficult issue. At CREC, every school has students that have nut allergies; some of these allergies are so serious that even airborne nut particles can cause a child to have a severe reaction. These reactions require serious medical intervention and can be life threatening.

Ensuring the safety of students and staff remains our top priority. As a result, we initiated a comprehensive plan to increase the nut sensitivity of our schools. Through the development of this plan, our goal is to reduce the presence of nuts and tree nuts in our schools. It is our intention to be proactive and to prevent incidences of anaphylactic shock whenever possible.

In the coming months, we will:

- Provide parents with additional information about nut allergies and additional resources for communicating with your children about the actions we can all take to reduce the risk of allergic reactions.
- Ensure all schools engage in an education campaign about nut allergies.
- Establish a nut free zone in a section of the cafeteria that will be closely monitored.
- Assist schools with planning field trips and activities that reduce the risk of nut allergy reactions.

We are asking parents to consider the following:

- Discuss the dangers of nut allergies and sharing food with your child.
- If possible, please consider refraining from sending nut products to school.
- Explore alternative snacks that do not include nuts for your child to bring to school.
- Carefully read labels on food products before sending food to school. Products with labels that say, "may contain peanuts or tree nuts" (or similar language) should be avoided whenever possible.
- Ask questions about our nut sensitive protocols. Our ability to keep children safe will be enhanced through our discussions.

We understand that peanuts and tree nuts will always be part of our lives. We also understand that for some families there are special circumstances that make the complete elimination of nuts and nut products from your child's snacks and lunches particularly challenging. If this is the case for your child, please contact your child's principal to share this information so that our teachers are fully aware and can provide the best support to all students.

CREC MAGNET SCHOOLS
Dina Crowl
Superintendent of Schools

We appreciate your patience, understanding, and continued support. As partners, we can better ensure the health and safety of all CREC students.

Please contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Dina Crowl
Superintendent of CREC Schools

CC: Bruce E. Douglas, Ph.D., Executive Director, CREC