

# Strongsville City Schools

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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August 18, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Strongsville City School District recognizes that the health and safety of our students is of utmost importance. We continually strive to maintain a healthy school atmosphere for all individuals. Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, the District will be implementing new guidelines for shared food and snacks so that we can promote safety, consistency, and equal access for the growing number of children who have life-threatening food allergies.

Based on these new guidelines, we will no longer allow homemade or home-baked food items to be served to students as a shared snack at the preschool and all elementary school buildings. Foods/Snacks provided to students as a shared snack (e.g. birthday treats, class parties) during school hours or before/after school hours at school-sponsored events must be store-bought and display or have available an ingredient label for food allergen verification.

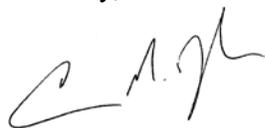
We are implementing these guidelines at the preschool and elementary level for several important reasons. First, we feel that it is important to offer this additional life-saving protection to our younger student populations who may not understand their allergy or may have difficulty making safe food choice selections. Second, we recognize that due to the increasing prevalence of life-threatening allergies among students, we must be diligent and do our part to protect everyone by eliminating a possible source of harm. Shared food and snacks must be free from peanuts and tree nuts. Additional restrictions, such as eggs and milk, may be instituted at the classroom level should a student's health needs dictate.

Homemade or home-baked foods for your child's snack or lunch that are not shared with other students will still be permitted, unless a child with a severe allergy has been identified in your son or daughter's classroom. In this situation, additional food/snacks may be prohibited in the classroom based on medical necessity.

We understand that this modification will bring some changes to classroom parties and other special events within the school, but it is essential to provide a safe environment for all students. To assist in this transition, our new food service company, Chartwells, is willing to work with parents and cater class parties or provide shared birthday treats that adhere to these guidelines.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter. If you should have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact your child's school principal or Crystal Tackaberry, District Nurse, at 440-572-7069.

Sincerely,



Cameron M. Ryba  
Superintendent