

*Cliffside Park Public Schools
School #6 and Middle School
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*Michael Bucco
Principal*

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IMPORTANT FOOD ALLERGY INFORMATION LETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Cliffside Park School District is extremely concerned about our students who have allergies to everyday foods which pose a serious health risk. Peanuts, nuts, milk, eggs, and shellfish are among the most common foods that can cause allergic reactions. For those afflicted with severe food allergies accidental ingestion can result in a life threatening allergic reaction called **anaphylaxis**. Food allergies are becoming increasingly common in today's society and the need for proactive measures is essential if schools are to safeguard those students who have specific food allergies. At the Cliffside Park Public Schools, the following actions are being taken to heighten awareness as to food allergies and to enhance the safety of the student body:

- As of January 2008, the Cliffside Park School District School Lunch Program in Grades Pre-K through 8 **no longer has peanut butter on its menu**. We offer grilled cheese sandwiches in place of peanut butter and jelly as well as other alternatives to the daily lunch item.
- We ask all parents to **refrain from sending peanut and/or any nut products to school for lunch or snacks**. Please check product labels carefully.
- A school-wide ban on the distribution of any foods containing peanuts and/or nut products is in effect. Parents must consult with their child's teacher when planning classroom events in which food will be served.
- The staff will discourage the sharing of foods and request that parents reinforce this notion with their child/children.

It is our hope that the information contained in this letter will serve to promote awareness as to the critical health issue of food allergies. Educating the school community will further assist Cliffside Park in establishing an "allergy friendly" school environment.

Thank you for your attention and understanding concerning this important health matter.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bock, RN, CSN
School Nurse
/kbt