



Edward T. Hamilton School
(856) 767-4888

Andrew H. Moskowitz
Principal

September 3, 2019

To the Parents/Guardians of E.T. Hamilton School Student(s):

It is necessary that we share some important information with you and ask for your cooperation in helping to make our school a safe and healthy environment.

This year there are many students who are highly allergic to peanuts/ tree nuts, shellfish, and other foods. These children could have an anaphylactic reaction which can be sudden, severe, and potentially fatal. Common causes of anaphylaxis include foods such as: peanuts/tree nuts, milk, egg, wheat, soy, fish, shellfish, medications and insect stings. Complete avoidance of the causative allergen is essential to keep the allergic person safe.

Our goal is to provide a safe environment for all students at E.T. Hamilton School. For this reason, we ask for your cooperation by adhering to the suggestions listed below. Although the school is not a peanut- free environment, there are other considerations given to classrooms designated as peanut free/tree nut free. Teachers in these classrooms will have clear lines of communication between the parents of the child who has these allergies and the school nurse, Mrs. Heather Karbach. We want affected families to feel comfortable in the school environment. Here are some general guidelines and suggestions for **these classrooms that are designated as peanut and tree nut free**:

1. Please provide birthday treats and party foods that are peanut free.
2. When supplying birthday treats, please **AVOID HOMEMADE ITEMS if at all possible**. It is important that we have store- bought products that have all ingredients listed.
3. Strive to provide healthy snacks, such as pretzels, popcorn, rice treats, fruit snacks and fruit for parties and snacks.
4. Please send in water bottles instead of juice as we have several children allergic to apples, bananas, strawberries, mangos, grapes, etc. for parties and during snack time. **Juice is an option during lunch time**.
5. Encourage your children to thoroughly wash their hands after eating, especially if they have eaten peanut products.
6. Using the peanut free table is an option for those children with peanut/tree nut allergies. There are two tables for each homeroom in the cafeteria, one peanut/tree nut free and another table where students can eat peanut/tree nut products.
7. Please do not send in any peanut/tree nut products for snacks. It is possible that traces of the product could be left on classroom surfaces.
8. Students in these classrooms can bring in peanut/tree nut products to lunch since they are left unopened in the classroom. However, students who bring in these products need to avoid the peanut/tree nut free table at lunch.
9. Parents who help with classroom parties should make sure that items brought in for students to eat do not contain peanut/tree nut products.

Other important information that should make parents feel comfortable in the school environment:

1. Epi-Pen trainings for delegates are required once a year by NJ state law. ETH delegates are asked to train every quarter, four times a year.
2. The nurse is on the premises all day. This allows the medical professional to address concerns while students are present in school.
3. Many members of the BERT Team (Emergency Response Staff) are Epi-Pen trained to address an allergic reaction.
4. There is a list of children with allergies with the emergency binder, the principal, and both secretaries listing who has an epi-pen and all those staff members that are epi-pen trained.
5. Epi-Pens are housed in the main office as a central location by state law.
6. There are staff members Epi-pen trained including CER staff.
7. Lunches can be ordered in advance during a specific month where anything on the menu for that month can be purchased by the parent through food service. **There is an online menu that lists all the parents need to know about the food we serve. Contact food service for these options if needed.**
8. **Food Service Staff clean the lunch tables after the students eat every day.**
9. A letter is sent to parents regarding allergy concerns each year.
10. Parents of allergy children have a spot on field trips, parties, and special events to monitor their children themselves.
11. The nurse has Individual Health Action Plans for children with allergies from doctors on a course of treatment in the event of a medical concern.
12. There are nut free classrooms for students who suffer from allergies.
13. There are nut free tables for **each classroom** where anyone can sit if they do not have peanut/tree nut products.
14. Parents of children with allergies can provide the homeroom teacher or nurse with extra snacks to use for birthday celebrations as an option if needed.

We will be providing you with further information as the school year progresses if it is needed or warranted. **Please discuss with your child the seriousness of this allergy information and the importance of not sharing food during lunch. Teachers will be notifying you if your child is in a peanut/tree nut free classroom. We ask that you bring in peanut/tree nut free snacks during the first few days of school as a precaution.** If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school to speak with me or the school nurse, Mrs. Karbach. Thank you for your cooperation. We are looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Andrew H. Moskowitz

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Principal