



UPDATED SCHOOL HEALTH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Health and safety have always been top priorities at BCA, and we annually evaluate and update our school health policies and procedures in accordance with RI School Health Regulations and the District Wellness Policy.

Please make note of the following reminders and changes BCA has made which address food allergies, foodborne illnesses/hygiene issues, cross-contamination in preparation, and general student health.

Reminders:

- All classrooms at BCA are peanut/tree nut-free
- All snacks eaten in classrooms must be nut-free
- Pre-packaged food items that state "*manufactured on equipment that processes nuts*" or "*may contain nuts*" are not allowed in classrooms, regardless of student allergies.
- Food sharing is not allowed in class or lunchroom
- Food items made at home for education-related celebrations such as LS Cultural Fair must be sent in with ingredient list and must be nut-free (pre-packaged food items should be used, whenever possible).

Changes to be aware of:

Classroom Celebrations Involving Food (ex. Christmas Parties):

Only pre-packaged food items and baked goods with clear labeling and allergy information will be allowed so that safe and healthy choices can be made (exceptions may be made for education-related celebrations involving foods such as LS Cultural Fair as stated above).

Again, pre-packaged food items that state "*manufactured on equipment that processes nuts*" or "*may contain nuts*" are not allowed in classrooms as stated above.

Birthdays:

In addition to recognizing student birthdays on the morning announcements and with birthday cards signed by teachers, BCA is working on other possible creative, **non-food related** ways to help celebrate student birthdays, as **we will no longer allow food items such as cupcakes, (homemade or store-bought) to be passed out for student birthdays.**

Outside Beverages:

Students will be asked to dispose of their coffee, tea, smoothie, etc at the beginning of homeroom. Water only is allowed in classrooms. No glass bottles, please.

We appreciate your help in implementing our updates to promote student health and safety, and we thank you for your understanding as we all get used to these changes.