



To: Parents of Preschool and Elementary Students

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you about our "No-Nut Policy." Runnels Elementary and Preschool, and Jr/Sr High classrooms that are shared with younger children are "Nut Free." Please do not send to school any type of nut, peanut butter, any food containing peanut oil, or food that has been processed in a facility where nuts are processed. Please read the labels of food you are considering for your children's snacks or lunch to help you determine which food items are within the school's "No-Nut Policy."

We are constantly striving to provide the safest environment possible for all students on our campuses. In recent years, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of students with food allergies; nut allergies in particular. Many people are not aware of the seriousness of this particular allergy. For some children, it is life-threatening. And the reaction can occur from simply being touched by another child whose skin has a trace of residual peanut or tree nut products.

Our decision to create this policy at our school was made after careful research and with the advice and support of several doctors in our school family and others in the Baton Rouge community. We are one of many schools in our area and across the country having this policy for the protection of children.

We know that helping us in this way will clearly be an inconvenience to many of you - but an inconvenience that could avoid unspeakable catastrophe to another family. Most of you are aware of the safe alternatives to peanut butter, but if you would like more information about this, please call us or one of our school nurses. There are several brands of soy butter that can be found at Target, Walmart, Whole Foods, and elsewhere. These were "kid-tested" (by us) and most of the children loved these "peanut-butter substitutes"!

We are asking for your cooperation in making our school as safe as possible for the children in our care.

Sincerely,

Marcia Mackay, Head of School