



301 West Orange Street
Lititz, PA 17543-1898
FAX: 717.626.3850

Dr. Keith Floyd, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
717.626.3734 x3726
kfloyd@warwicksd.org

September 7, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a procedural change in regards to snacks, lunch rewards, and parties within the elementary division of the Warwick School District beginning with the 2011-12 school year. As you are more than likely aware, there is a growing movement at both the state and national level, as well as pending state legislation* regarding health and nutrition within our schools. The link between nutrition and learning is well documented. Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth, and lifelong health and well-being. The Warwick School District believes that we have a responsibility to help students establish and maintain lifelong, healthy eating patterns.

In addition, food allergies are an area of growing concern in schools across America as well. Millions of children - children who are perfectly healthy in every other way – must watch every piece of food that they come in contact with, or risk suffering a severe or even life threatening reaction. In fact, food allergies claim an estimated 150 lives and are responsible for more than 125,000 emergency room visits each year**. A major health issue such as this must be taken very seriously, and it has always been the policy of the district to make the safety and well-being of our students our top priority.

For the reasons mentioned above, the district is asking your assistance in limiting the amount and type of snacks and food being brought into and distributed at school. If a snack/treat is desired, we would ask that it be a “healthy snack.” Fruits, vegetables, and other snacks that are low in both calories and sugar content are desirable. If you so choose, healthy food options may be purchased through the district’s Food Services Division utilizing the *BirthDay Treat* order form which may be found on the Warwick School District website, or by contacting the Food Services Coordinator at your child’s respective school. In either event, we would ask that you coordinate the treat with your child’s classroom teacher.

To further assist you with these new procedures, please utilize the following information:

Are snacks still allowed?

Yes. Individual and classroom snacks will be allowed, but again should follow the guidelines listed above.

What about food rewards and special parties?

With the pending changes to the Pennsylvania State *Chapter 12 - Food and Nutrition Regulations*, the following procedures will be in place:

1. The use of outside food (i.e. pizza or fast food) will not be permitted as part of a food reward. All food rewards should be purchased through the district's Food Services Division to guarantee that the food meets the *Chapter 12 - Food and Nutritional* guidelines.
2. Parties and celebrations may not interfere with school lunch and may begin no earlier than 30 minutes after the last meal period of the regular school day with the exception of classroom parties serving a meal in lieu of lunch*.
3. If the classroom party or celebration is a meal in lieu of lunch, a healthy lunch that meets the nutritional guidelines will be ordered by the Food Service Director*.

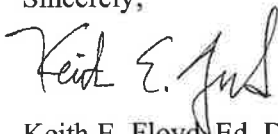
Or you may choose to use a food alternative such as pencils, erasers, etc.

Are there exceptions to these procedures?

Yes. Special events that take place after school hours and are not sponsored by the school district (i.e. Fun Nights, etc.) are exempt from these procedures, but should try to offer healthy options to the attendees.

In closing, it is my hope that this letter has been helpful in explaining why these changes are occurring, as well as providing guidance to some of the questions that I am sure will arise. Please know that the Warwick School District is committed to providing your child with a healthy environment in all its forms. If you have any questions about these new procedures, please feel free to contact your building principal or me.

Sincerely,



Keith E. Floyd, Ed. D.
Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education

Cc: Dr. April Hershey, Superintendent
Mrs. Yvette Line-Koller, Director of Student Services
Mrs. Melanie Calender, Lititz Elementary School Principal
Mrs. Lisa Himes, John Beck Elementary School Principal
Dr. Peggy Montgomery, John R. Bonfield Elementary School Principal
Mrs. Melissa Vulopas, Kissel Hill Elementary School Principal

* Pending Pennsylvania State *Chapter 12 - Food and Nutrition Regulations*.

** Source: *Food Allergy Initiative*, www.FoodAllergyInitiative.org