

## A Letter Regarding Allergies and Food Service at Japhet School

Japhet School takes all food allergies seriously, and Japhet School is a “nut-aware campus,” which encompasses the entire school building and exterior school grounds.

To protect our students with peanut and tree nut allergies we ask the cooperation of everyone in our community to provide a safe environment. **Please do not send or bring any food to school that contains peanuts, almonds, cashews, pistachios, walnuts, pecans, macadamias, or other tree nuts, or products that contain nut-based oil, milk, flour, butter, or meal.**

A student who comes to school with food containing nuts will be offered a replacement food item from our kitchen, and parents will be notified. The food item discovered to contain peanuts or tree nuts will be stored in the office and sent home at dismissal. Or, the student may elect to eat his or her own original food item in the office.

Unfortunately, no federal or local law requires adequate food labeling. All food products are subject to cross-contact -- the inadvertent introduction of an allergen during processing or handling. Some students may have reactions to cross-contact foods. The food your child brings to school has the direct ability to affect the safety and health of other Japhet students.

We are committed to working with families to understand any allergies their child may have, and make accommodations, where possible, for those foods served by the school, including After-school Care. (Life Skills cooking classes, Bagel Breakfast, Hot Lunch, Chili Supper, Spaghetti Dinner, and other school-wide food events are temporarily cancelled for 2020/2021.) Parents or guardians are welcome to visit our kitchen and review the ingredient statements on labels at any time by making an appointment with the Life Skills teacher. However, ingredients may change at any time without notice by the manufacturer. Please be aware that flour and other products containing gluten and other common allergens (such as dairy and eggs) are used in our kitchen. **Japhet School’s kitchen is not a gluten-free or Top 8 allergen-free facility.**

Japhet School faculty and staff are aware of students’ allergies, and we strive to provide a safe environment for all children. **Because all children bring their own food from home, and manufacturers change ingredients and processes without notice, it is impossible to guarantee an allergen-free school.** As stated in the Student Behavior Handbook, we strongly urge students to not share food, and to solely eat food that comes from their own homes.

The responsibility for the care, safety, and content of your child’s diet rests solely with the parent, legal guardian, or caregiver who is of sufficient age and ability to monitor your child’s food exposure and consumption. We recommend that parents of students who have serious allergies be available to drive their own children on field trips and other offsite activities when necessary.

Thank you for your efforts to help ensure the safety of all children attending Japhet School.

**Kerri G. Vizena**  
Head of School

*Updated August 1, 2020*