

Grand Rapids Christian Elementary School Policies Regarding Life-Threatening Allergies

Grand Rapids Christian Elementary Schools relies heavily on parental cooperation to implement the following policy. **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.**

Applies to All GRCES Students & Families:

1. No food clearly identifiable as or clearly labeled as containing peanuts is permitted.
2. Foods labeled as "processed with peanuts" or "processed in a facility that also processes peanuts" are permitted unless your child's classroom is specifically designated as a "Peanut-Free Zone".
3. To avoid accidental exposure to allergens through residual contact, all students will be expected to wash their hands after meals.
4. Any activities involving food in common areas must be allergen-free and proper cleaning of tables and common areas must occur after any events in common areas.
5. Threats to students with life-threatening allergies will be considered bullying and will be addressed by GRCES's student discipline process. 6. Information about peanut allergies, how to read labels, peanut-free lunch alternatives, or birthday treat ideas will be available at the GRCES school office.

Applies to All GRCES Students & Families in classrooms with a peanut-allergic student:

1. Children in classrooms who bring peanut products in their lunch will have these products removed and will be provided with a reasonable alternative if available.
2. GRCES maintains the right to declare a classroom a "Peanut-Free Zone" depending on the age of the allergic child and the severity of the allergy.

3. If your child is in a "Peanut-Free Zone" classroom, you will be notified directly. (Peanut-Free Zone: Area where no products containing, processed with, or processed in a facility with peanuts is allowed due to risks of cross-contamination and accidental exposure.

Applies to Staff at GRCES:

1. The school (in partnership with parents, health officials, and other agencies) will participate in ongoing school community education programs.
2. The school will train staff on allergies, sources of allergens, avoidance techniques, identification of an allergic reaction in progress, and emergency response procedures.
3. Teachers in classrooms where life-threatening allergies are present may confiscate food that poses a danger to another student and may provide a safe alternative if one is available.
4. Peanuts or peanut-contaminated materials will not be utilized in any teacher-initiated activities (i.e. art projects, baking projects, games, etc.)