



VENERINI ACADEMY

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Dear Parents,

Food allergies are a serious concern for today's parents and children. Venerini Academy is an "Allergy Aware School". This does not mean that we are allergy or nut free. It means that we have policies and procedures in place to keep students with life-threatening allergies as safe as possible in a learning environment.

In order to minimize the incidence of life-threatening allergic reactions Venerini Academy will maintain a school-wide procedure for addressing life-threatening allergic reactions. An Emergency plan has been developed for any student who is diagnosed with a life-threatening allergy by his/her physician.

The student's parents must provide Epipens. All epipens must be brought to the school nurse in a pharmacy labeled container with the prescription label attached. The emergency action plan has a current school photo of the student along with parental consent and doctor's orders. Each student with allergies now has an emergency epi/first aid backpack right in the classroom. Inside this backpack contains the students epipen, emergency action plan, school wide allergy list, nurses cell phone number and a report of epinephrine administration in case one is administered. If a student attends after school program, a second epipen should be provided to the health office. This will ensure that the student has his/her epipen with him/her at all times. Epipens will also be sent on field trips for students in need. Every staff member has been trained on the policy and procedures to be followed to minimize the incidence of life-threatening allergic reactions and the steps to be followed in case of an emergency. In the event that an epipen is used at school or on a field trip, paramedics will transport the student to the nearest medical facility. Parents will be notified to meet the student there and a classroom assistant or staff member will stay with your child for safety until your arrival.

Grades Pre-K3 through Kindergarten will be entirely nut free. Children in these grades are **not** to bring any food items that contain any nut products. Grades 1-3 will be nut free in the classroom and during recess. The cafeteria **will not** be nut free for grades 1-8. We will have designated allergy tables among all the other tables. This means designated tables will be washed down before and after each use. Every staff member will be instructed to clean them before and after just to be sure they are clean and we are practicing safe standards to minimize the incidence of an issue. Students with allergies will be able to sit with their friends at this table; however friends sitting at this table may have foods that may contain allergy-causing reactions. We would like to set a standard that a student with allergies is to sit at the end of this designated table to minimize any exposure. The children are all taught why sharing of foods is not an option in order to keep their friends safe and we promote the PAL program. We will be encouraging all children to wash/antibacterial their hands prior to lunch and at the completion of lunch especially those at this table. For parents who would prefer a completely peanut/nut free table we will continue to have a separate table, but we are asking that you let us know your

preference so we can make the teachers and assistants aware of your wishes. If a student chooses not to sit at the completely nut free table he/she assumes the responsibility.

PAL program simply is all children being a PAL by following 5 simple steps:

1. Never take food allergies lightly.
2. Don't share food with friends who have food allergies.
3. Wash your hands after eating.
4. Ask what your friends are allergic to, and help them avoid it.
5. If a friend who has food allergies becomes ill, get help from an adult immediately.

In the event lunch is consumed in the classroom, the classroom teacher will make provisions for a nut free area for those students.

On birthdays and special occasions we ask that any snack or baked product be peanut/nut free. If a parent provides a special occasion snack for a classroom, a list of ingredients or the label must be brought to the health care office. The nurse will keep each label for 24 hours to ensure no reactions have occurred before disposing of the label. Parents who do not wish their children with allergies to have any special occasion foods, will be asked to notify their teacher and provide their son/daughter with his/her own snack as the school cannot be certain cross contamination has not occurred.

Venerini Academy strives to keep our students in a safe and healthy environment and we appreciate your cooperation in ensuring every child is protected.

Truly,



Audra Kelliher, R.N.
School Nurse