



St. Francis of Assisi School
7075 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
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Jon Aldrich, Interim Principal Gretchen Watznauer, Interim Asst. Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian of Student with Life Threatening Peanut Allergies:

St. Francis of Assisi School's lunch menu is peanut free. However, our cafeteria is not a peanut free environment. We provide a Safe Table for students with peanut allergies. St. Francis School lunch staff is responsible for the cleaning of this table and can maintain it as a "safe zone" for students with life threatening peanut allergies.

Although all tables are cleaned prior to meal service, peanut free status cannot be guaranteed for all other tables. These tables are cleaned between meal shifts as thoroughly as possible by students designated as table captains, but peanut products and residue might remain on these tables. These tables are also used by the Kids Care program after school. The Safe Table remains the only table exclusively used by the School Lunch Program.

Our policy states that all students with life threatening peanut allergies, ages K-2, eat their lunch at the Safe Table. We feel that this is the safest possible location for your students to eat, considering not only their developmental age, but the developmental ages of ALL students in the cafeteria at this time. While your student might understand the ramifications of exposure to peanuts and how to manage his/her allergy situation, other students at this age most likely do not. It is not always reasonable in the busy cafeteria atmosphere for your student to safely remove himself/herself from a potential dangerous situation or request assistance from a volunteer or staff member. Each student who sits at the Safe Table is able to bring a friend from his/her class who is eating a school lunch. It has been our experience that this is not a socially isolating experience for students with peanut allergies.

In grades 3-8, the parent/guardian may choose to allow their student to eat lunch at any cafeteria table if they sign the waiver. At this age, students may change their location at the cafeteria tables based on location of students that have peanut/peanut products in their lunch. We have found that students at these developmental ages are able to manage their environment in the cafeteria more effectively and independently. However, students in these grades also have the option of remaining at the Safe Table and bringing a friend to eat, as in grades K-2.

All parents of students with allergies are asked to complete the safe table form. Please indicate whether you would like your student to participate in being a Table Captain or would prefer for them not to participate in this lunchroom responsibility due to their allergies.

Please contact us if you have further questions or concerns regarding this policy.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Riedl
School Nutrition Director