



Saint Francis St. Francis of Assisi School
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Jeff Lynch, Principal Jodi Halligan, 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 each meal service, these tables are cleaned between meal shifts by students designated as table captains and peanut products and residue might remain on these tables. These tables are also used by the Kids Care program before and 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 child to eat, considering not only their developmental age, but the developmental ages of ALL students in the cafeteria at this time. While your child 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 child to safely remove himself/herself from a potentially dangerous situation or request assistance from a volunteer or staff member. There are other students at the Safe Table and when space is available, 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. Students who do not have a life threatening allergy or who have gone through a desensitization program do not need to sit at the safe table. Please sign the Food Allergy Safe Table Form to indicate where you would like your child to sit.

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

All students with allergies need to have a completed FOOD ALLERGY SAFE TABLE FORM on file.

Please contact us if you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Riedl
School Nutrition Director