



Food Allergy Policy at MMS

After meetings with parents of allergic children and representatives from other schools, MMS has established a food allergy policy.

This policy is designed to prevent severe allergic reactions, to prepare faculty and staff to deal with allergy emergencies, and to minimize anxiety on the part of students, faculty, and staff around the issue of food allergies. This food allergy policy does not guarantee that a student will never experience an allergy-related event at school. We believe, however, that these measures significantly decrease the risk to allergic children.

The foods most likely to cause allergic reactions are peanuts, tree nuts, dairy products, eggs, soy, wheat, fish, and shellfish. While most food allergies produce symptoms that are uncomfortable and easily treated, **anaphylactic food reactions are potentially life-threatening for some people.**

Our specific food allergy measures include:

- ✓ Parents of children with life-threatening allergies must provide the school with a written medical treatment protocol for their child, along with any emergency medication. The school will develop an individual emergency plan according to the need of the child. The medication release form must be returned to the administrative office.
- ✓ Allergy lists indicating the exact allergies of each child are distributed to the school kitchen and individual classrooms each September and updated each January after the holiday break.
- ✓ The faculty and staff will be educated at the beginning of each school year about the recognition and emergency treatment of severe food allergies. The Head of School coordinates the overall allergy prevention and treatment program.
- ✓ Because peanuts are often the cause of severe allergic reactions even in children not thought to be allergic to them, no peanut butter or peanut products are served from the school kitchen; no snacks containing peanuts should be served in the school; and parents should not send baked goods or snacks containing peanut butter, peanuts, or peanut oil to the school.
- ✓ Hand washing before and after meals or snacks is part of the daily routine at MMS. Tables are washed with soap and water after all snacks and meals.
- ✓ Teachers are not allowed to administer medication (unless authorized by parent and Head) except when a child is having anaphylactic seizures caused

by allergies related to food that has been touched or ingested. EpiPen (located in the classroom) should be administered immediately and the Head of School notified.

- ✓ Additional supplies of emergency medicine are kept in the medicine cabinet in the administrative office on the garden level.