



TO: Parents/Guardians of Warwick School District Students
FROM: Warwick School District
DATE: January 27, 2012
Subject: Changes to Food Guidelines

At Warwick School District, we are responsible to ensure the safety and security of all students. We take that responsibility seriously and make every effort to ensure safety. As part of those efforts, we must take precautions to ensure that no one can utilize food to harm our students, and we need to be sure that all food served to students or staff is safe. We have well-developed policies and procedures in the food services areas in each of our schools and continuously evaluate those policies and procedures in order maintain a high level of food safety.

In addition, at both the state and national levels of government, there is growing attention focused on health and nutrition within our schools. Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth, and lifelong health and well-being. The Warwick School District has recently increased our attention in this area as well. We are committed to helping students establish and maintain lifelong, healthy eating patterns.

Finally, food allergies are an area of growing concern in schools across America. Millions of children suffer allergic reactions due to food exposure, whether that exposure is through ingestion, touch or even in an airborne form. Those reactions can vary in severity from mild to life-threatening. This is a major health issue and must be taken very seriously. Again, the safety of all students in our school is a top priority for the Warwick School District.

For the reasons mentioned above, a committee with representation from teachers, support staff, administration and community members met several times over the past year to consider these issues and, along with the administration, recommended changes to the existing procedures related to food in our schools and classrooms.

The following guidelines will outline these updated procedures:

- **Outside food (food that is not provided by the Warwick School District Food Services department), that is intended to be used for rewards, or parties, or served as other treats, is not permitted.** All food rewards, including birthday treats, should be purchased through the district's Food Services department to guarantee the safety of the food, its preparation, and that it meets the *Chapter 12 - Food and Nutritional* guidelines. All recommendations and directives related to student needs due to food allergies in the classroom and school must be followed.
- Parents are encouraged to consider the use of non-food rewards to commemorate special celebrations.
- If your child is permitted to eat a snack during the school day due to his/her lunch schedule, those snacks should be "healthy snacks." Fruits, vegetables, and other snacks that are low in both calories and sugar content are considered to be "healthy snacks."

If you should have specific questions, please contact the building Principal.