



# St. Timothy Catholic School

08-29-2016

Dear Saint Timothy School Families:

At Saint Timothy Catholic School (STS), we are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all of our students. This includes the protection of students with allergies on all levels of the spectrum; especially students with severe, life-threatening allergies. This year, **several of our students have severe, multi-exposure allergies to peanut and tree nut products and/or bi-products.** Subsequently, in consultation with the diocese, other local schools, federal laws including ADA, IDEA, Section 504, FERPA, FAAN, and state laws, we will keep the following classrooms nut free. ***The Preschool, Kindergarten, Ms Wright(1A), Ms Byrns(2B) and 4<sup>th</sup> grade(4A & 4B) classrooms as “Nut Free Zones”; they are not allowed to bring nut products in their snacks or have it in the classroom at all.*** This is done in order to *protect and keep all of our children safe!* Following, you will find some of the strategies which STS has implemented to further reduce the dangers and risks:

- First Friday Food Pantry Donations
- Birthday celebrations with food were replaced with a student's free-dress day. Save the food celebrations for home; the free-dress day allows our staff members to recognize and wish the student “Happy Birthday Wishes” instead of limiting the celebration solely to the classroom!
- Classrooms with children who have peanut allergies are noted with a picture of a nut with a red line through it on the classroom door.
- Recess before lunch strategy: Recess was moved before lunch to encourage better appetites and the avoidance of food proteins at the playground.
- Teachers encourage students to wash their hands or use hand wipes after lunch to prevent classroom contamination.
- The school cafeteria will no longer sell food products with peanuts or peanut bi-products. For parents of students with life-threatening allergies, we do encourage parents to read all cafeteria labels if their child desires to eat the school lunch. This information is available by contacting Mrs. Snowden at [psnowden@sainttimothyschool.org](mailto:psnowden@sainttimothyschool.org).
- A “Peanut-Free” or “Dairy/Nut-Free” table is offered for parents who notify Mrs. Snowden for their child's placement at this table.
- Separate cleaning materials are available for the “Peanut-Free” and “Dairy/Nut-Free” tables to avoid cross contamination.
- “NO FOOD” is permitted on the daily school buses or playground.
- Food activities are avoided in the classroom, unless they are absolutely necessary. Teachers will be notifying parents of children with life-threatening allergies to verify that the child can participate or will work together with the parent to identify an acceptable solution for the child's involvement.
- Classrooms, where children are located who have multiple food allergens, will not be used for after-school activities.
- Staff is trained annually and before field trips for the signs/symptoms of allergic reactions, steps to take, and EpiPen administration, through an in-service and by taking a certified, on-line course; as well as being First Aid, CPR/AED certified.

These are just a few of the changes that STS has made over the years to keep our children safe! We welcome and support all children, regardless of their medical issues, and we ask for



# *St. Timothy Catholic School*

your continued understanding and support as we make every effort to keep our school safe for all students.

As many of you know, Mrs. Snowden, our school nurse, is a registered nurse who maintains a current professional license, First Aid and CPR/AED training. Working closely with administration, teachers, staff and parents, Mrs. Snowden has always been proactive in allergy notification by sending out *Allergy Alert Letters/emails* through your child's homeroom teacher on the first day of school. Classroom allergies can also be found on your teacher's webpage and are posted on the STS website, under Parent Resources, Nurse's Office, for reference before classroom celebrations. Remember to coordinate all classroom celebrations at least 2 weeks in advance with your classroom teacher.

As was done last year, we are asking parents to avoid sending in peanut , tree nut products/ peanut bi-products with their student(s) for lunch in those grades that have severe life threatening allergies. ***Since you are receiving this letter, you are in one of the classrooms that we are asking parents to refrain from sending peanut products or peanut bi-products with their student's lunches or snacks due to multiple students having multiple exposure and cross-contamination issues.*** Please note that the best strategy to avoid allergic reactions to peanuts is by strictly avoiding peanuts in all forms. All PTO celebrations will be peanut-free as was previously reported by our PTO President. We understand the challenges inherent in complying with this policy, and greatly appreciate the selfless sacrifices that each family will make on behalf of our STS family.

To help further reduce the risk of student contact with peanuts and tree nuts, we ask that each parent / guardian encourage your child(ren) to abide by the following rules:

- **Never trade food with anyone.**
- **Notify an adult immediately if they see someone is in distress.**
- **Respect each other and always consider the dignity of each person you interact with.**

Thank you again for your continued support of our school, we greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely In Christ,

Joseph M. McLaughlin  
Principal, Saint Timothy Catholic School

Patrice Snowden BSN, RN  
School Nurse