

SCHALM & KENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S

FOOD POLICY

Dear Parents,

You've all read the headlines and seen the news stories: health issues including childhood obesity, diabetes, and food allergies are a growing concern in schools across America. Many children who are perfectly healthy must watch every bite they eat, or risk suffering a severe or even fatal reaction. Other children are seriously overweight because of poor eating habits or an inactive lifestyle. The Student Wellness Policy, adopted unanimously, by the Michigan State Board of Education states:

...poor food choices and inadequate physical activity contribute to overweight and obesity. Currently, obesity among children is at epidemic levels

Major health issues such as these need to be taken very seriously, and it has always been the policy of this school district to make the safety and well-being of our students our top priority. Therefore, we are putting the following safety guidelines into effect:

Birthdays are a special time for children, but snacks sent to school can pose a problem for food-allergic children, and directly violate the student wellness policy. Instead of edible snacks, your child may bring in a pencil, stickers, or other non-edible treats for their classmates. We will keep the food at holiday parties to a minimum. As with birthday celebrations, non-consumable "treats" will be encouraged on these occasions. Edible treats need to be individually pre-packaged with clear ingredient labels.

We request that parents NOT bring fast food to school for lunch. Either send a pre-packed lunch with your child or have them order school lunch from the menu. If you must bring a lunch to your child, please be on time and bring food ONLY for your child. Students get very upset when their lunch is late. Lunches will be delivered to your child's class by office staff.

This is a learning process for all of us, but we trust that you understand how important it is to respect and adhere to these guidelines. If you have any questions or concerns about food allergies or the student wellness policy, please contact me.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy school year.