

Marion Local Elementary/Middle School

7956 State Route 119
Maria Stein, OH 45860
419-925-4595 (P) 419-925-0212 (F)
Nick Wilker, Principal



Dear Parents,

We have been experiencing a higher number of students coming into our school with serious peanut and tree nut allergies, the food allergy that claims more lives each year than any other. Caring for all our children with allergies is of high importance and so, in response, we are putting forth some new practices to reduce the risk of exposure and cross contamination for these students. We do not intend to make this school a “nut free” building, but we will be dedicated to providing a safe environment for all our children. In order to help with this, we ask that you pay careful consideration to the following guidelines.

1. Classroom safe snacks – Please do not send any baked goods, peanuts, peanut butter, or foods containing peanuts or tree nuts to be eaten as snacks in the classroom. It is acceptable to send these products with your child for lunch where a “nut free” table will be designated by the cafeteria staff and supervisors of the cafeteria. A list of generally accepted snacks is copied on the back of this letter. A more comprehensive list updated frequently can be found at: www.snacksafely.com/snacklist.pdf. Snacks brought to school for birthday treats, holiday parties, etc. judged not to be safe by school staff will not be served to any students.
2. Minimizing cross contamination – Cross contamination is the most difficult piece to manage. We are placing great importance on hand washing and sanitizing at lunchtime. We will have all students who pack their lunch wash their hands after they eat and before going to recess. Similarly, if your child ate any foods containing peanut/tree nut products for breakfast, we would greatly appreciate your making sure that his/her hands are washed with soap and water before leaving for school.

We have individual classroom practices in place for students identified with allergies. Because of the severity of some allergies, we are taking a more concerted effort to put in place additional practices for our school. We trust that you understand how important it is to adhere to these guidelines. I am sure that you join with me in understanding that if our personal children suffered from such a severe and potentially life-threatening condition there would be no hesitation to act on these guidelines.

If you have any questions concerning our safe practices, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, June Moeller, our school nurse, or myself.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nick Wilker".

Nick Wilker
Principal

Every student.

Every day.

Whatever it takes.