

Dear Dominion Academy Families,

This year we welcome several students with food allergies to our campus, many of whom have life-threatening allergies. For those who've not dealt with food allergies before, it's important to understand that food smells and proteins have the ability to fill the learning environment where students spend most of their time. Since all students will eat in their classrooms this year rather than in the refectory, we have to be extremely careful about what foods we allow in the building. Further (because of COVID restrictions) it may take longer for staff to recognize symptoms of a growing allergic reaction, especially if those symptoms begin around a student's mouth. Therefore, Dominion Academy has chosen to become an "allergy-aware" campus in order to create a healthy learning environment for all students. We ask for your help and cooperation in keeping all of our students safe.

We have put the following practices in place to help prevent allergic reactions:

1. **All rooms at Dominion Academy are now peanut and tree nut free spaces.** This means:
 - ✓ We are asking families to refrain from bringing any nut products to school.
 - ✓ There will be no nuts or nut products kept in the cafeteria.
 - ✓ Classroom projects must be free of all nuts, peanut butter, and peanut shells.
2. Parents/caregivers will be notified of specific allergens to keep out of their child's classroom (however, all health information, including student allergy information, will remain confidential). *It is our hope that families **choose** not to send foods containing peanut butter or nuts.*
3. There may be special days and occasions that students may want to bring a snack to share. Please call the school for "allergy safe" suggestions, or consider sending a non-food item for the class to enjoy together (such as a book or game) instead.

I am looking forward to working with you to create a wonderful year for everyone. If you have any questions regarding our allergy-aware campus, please call 937.708.9555.

Sincerely,

Leah Gray, BSN, RN, LSN
School Nurse for Dominion Academy
937.708.9555