



The Walnut Ridge School

P.O. Box 190, 625 County Rd 517 Vernon, NJ 07462 / (P) 973-764-2801 / (F) 973-764-0066
Karen Stoeckel, *Supervisor of Pre-K* www.vtsd.com

September 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It has come to our attention that a few of the students in your child's class have food allergies. Due to the severity of these allergies some of these students could have a reaction simply by smelling or absorbing traces of these food products.

Children who possibly have food allergies look, act, play and learn just like all other children, but they can have a severe—and life-threatening—reaction if they eat, drink, or possibly even come in contact with the food to which they are allergic. This condition is very serious but is not in any way contagious. In order to provide a safe learning environment, your child's classroom will be ALLERGY AWARE and will follow these procedures:

- All snacks—which will be eaten in the classroom—are to be nut-free in an effort to keep the classroom environment safe for all students. Snacks should be packed separately from your child's lunch as they will be brought directly into the classroom.
- All children will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before returning to their classrooms from lunch and recess. This will help prevent the spread of food residue in the classroom and will also promote good hygiene.
- Class parties and special events will still take place, but should focus on fun activities rather than on food whenever possible. If your child is celebrating a birthday, you might like to send in non-food items (such as pencils, erasers and stickers) instead of food treats. (This is not mandatory; it is just a suggestion.)
- Home-baked items will not be accepted for parties and all store-bought food items must be clearly labeled.
- Visit www.snacksafely.com/snackguide for current list of safe snacks.

Thank you very much for your anticipated understanding and support of this very important matter. It is imperative that every child enjoy learning in a safe environment.

Please feel free to call the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,