

Our mission is to
“inspire our children to
learn, think, grow and
excel in life.”

Food safety is a HIGH priority for
our school district.



For further information, contact the
school nurse in your child’s school:

Mary Caputo RN MSN at BCMS~

908-526-1415, #3

Further information may be referenced
from BOE Policies 5331 and 8505

The Branchburg Township schools cannot guarantee to provide a food-allergen-free environment for all students with life threatening allergies or prevent any harm to students in emergencies. The goal is to minimize the risk of exposure to food allergens that pose a threat to those students, educate the community, and vigilantly uphold a system wide protocol for responding to the needs of food allergic students.

Whiton Elementary and Stony Brook School have adopted age-appropriate guidelines for Pre-K through Grade 5 students. You will find that these guidelines are more restrictive than those set forth at Central Middle School (BCMS). The district’s long standing practice of food safety education, prevention and modeling in the lower elementary schools prepares the food allergic student(s) to enter middle school prepared and ready to assume more personal responsibility for their food safety. BCMS teachers and staff reinforce food safety education, prevention and modeling and encourage middle school students with and without food allergies to make wise choices in food consumption and abide by all food safety rules in the school. BCMS teachers continually promote rapid awareness and action among their peers and students should an anaphylactic event occur.

Understanding Branchburg Township Schools’ Food Safety Program

Branchburg Central Middle School

An explanation of the safety, health and wellness guidelines:

The goal of the Branchburg Township Schools regarding life-threatening food allergies is to engage in a system-wide effort to:

1. Prevent any occurrence of life-threatening food-based allergic reaction
2. Prepare for any allergic reactions to food
3. Respond appropriately to any food allergy emergencies that arise



Food Safety

The following guidelines are followed during school hours at Branchburg Central Middle School: Any food items with peanut or tree nut by- product(s) labeling are considered as peanuts/tree nuts. Volunteer EpiPen delegate(s) are at all before/after school hour events. EpiPens are accessible.

1. Classrooms may be designated peanut/nut free at parent request
2. Teachers/Staff and substitutes are provided with information regarding students with life-threatening food allergies
3. Teachers/Staff encourage “NO FOOD TRADING/SHARING and NO UTENSIL/CUP SHARING”
4. Food is not generally used in the classrooms for instructional/celebratory reasons unless otherwise approved by the principal following all food safety protocols and communications with nurse, teachers and parents
5. Food allergy management and education and hand washing hygiene is taught in health class
6. No food is consumed on school buses

Snacks

There is generally no designated snack time. The principal may allow certain grades to have snack based on lunch time schedules. If a student needs to eat a snack for health reasons then a medical directive or note from the student’s medical provider is needed. Snack foods will be kept in the nurse’s office with the exception of diabetic students who may carry snacks at all times. Peanut and tree nut snacks are discouraged.

Birthday Celebrations

We discourage any birthday/food celebrations in the school and recommend that food/party celebrations occur in the home. If a student brings a food celebration to school the food(s) shall be consumed at lunch time in the cafeteria.

Other Celebratory Activities

1. As part of the World Language Curriculum food items are prepared and /or purchased by the classroom teachers or parents. Teachers notify the students’ parents of the food event and do not allow peanut or tree nut foods served. Teachers dialogue with the principal and nurse. Food allergic students may bring their own food to consume. Classroom sanitation is done after the event and students wash hands as needed.
2. BCMS classrooms are utilized for before and after-school related events. At times food is consumed by the students. Teachers are responsible for the same food safety protocols as in 1.
3. Several Board of Education (BOE) approved social events are sponsored by the Student Council and other school groups. The Advisor(s) dialogue with the principal and nurse regarding foods served. Food allergic students may bring their own foods to consume.



PTO Parties

There are no PTO sponsored parties in classrooms. PTO sponsors one event for each grade level during the school year which is held in the gym. PTO leader(s) dialogue with the principal and nurse regarding foods served. Food allergic students may bring their own foods to consume.

Cafeteria

1. A designated peanut/tree nut free table will be identified /utilized at parent request
2. Food allergy poster(s) and Choking poster is hung on the cafeteria wall(s)
3. Cafeteria staff are notified of the students with severe food allergies
4. Tables are cleaned daily after use utilizing approved sanitation