

ALLERGY AWARENESS:

Many of our students have food allergies and the list of what students are allergic to continues to expand each year. Our focus is to control exposure throughout the entire school foot print not just the cafeteria.

Here are some important points:

- **We have adopted a no food celebrations in the classroom.**
- Any curriculum projects that involve food will be carefully reviewed and if possible alternate learning experiences/substitute ingredients will be incorporated into the lesson.
- Depending on the severity of the allergy, it might be necessary to identify an “Allergy Alert” classroom. Parents will receive direction as to what snacks are safe for the classroom in order to minimize cross-contamination. Students will be asked to not have a certain ingredient in their snack but could have that ingredient at lunch. A good example of this is peanut butter - while it would not be safe in the classroom, we can put procedures in place so that your child can have peanut butter at lunch without the risk of cross-contamination.
- Depending on the severity of the allergy, all students in a specific classroom may be required to wash hands after eating both snack and lunch.
- Some children require an “Allergy Alert Table” in the cafeteria. This means that the table is closely monitored for allergens. A student with a specific allergy can invite a buddy or two to sit at the Allergy Alert Table as long as the buddies have an allergen-free lunch.
- The Food Service Director, is very willing to work with families regarding specific food allergies and purchasing lunch. <https://wellesleyps.org/students-families/food-services/> All foods provided by Whitson Food Service are nut free.
- Our school staff is trained to recognize an allergic reaction and take the appropriate emergency response. Teachers are aware of the emergency response plans for their classroom students.
- We continue to raise awareness about food allergies and teach all students to be aware of their own allergies and those around them.