



MONTEITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Each and Every Child, Each and Every Day

Dear Monteith Families,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a new direction Monteith will be taking in regard to birthday treats and classroom/holiday parties/picnics. Due to the increasing number of students with medical conditions such as diabetes and various food allergies, the Monteith staff has decided that we will no longer welcome birthday treats into the classroom. Holiday and classroom parties/picnics will have a strictly enforced list of safe food options to choose from. On the back of this letter you will find additional information regarding birthdays and holiday/classroom parties. These changes are for the 2014-15 school year and beyond.

The start of a new school year brings about many challenges. One of those challenges is creating a safe environment for students with food allergies. Educating the staff, students and community is essential to creating that safe environment. A startling statistic is that every grade level has multiple students with varied types of food allergies, whether it is to nuts, dairy or wheat. The severity of each child's allergy is vastly different. Some reactions may be minor, but we have others whose exposure to certain foods could be life threatening. Exposure can occur from ingesting food or through contact with any surface (desks, door handles, etc.) that another child has touched after eating the allergy-causing food.

How can we help as a school community?

- Remind your child to wash their hands after every time they eat.
- Remind your child not to share any of their lunch or snack with other children.
- Remind your child to keep their food contained within their eating space in the lunch room and within the classroom.

The Monteith staff will continue to provide these reminders to students.

We understand that for some this will be difficult, but our decision was based on making an environment that is safe for all students.

Thank you for understanding.

Sincerely,

Keith Howell
Monteith Faculty

Happy Birthday!!!!

Birthdays are such an exciting event for children. We understand that taking away the birthday treats (food should NOT be brought in and shared) may be upsetting to some; however, there are many alternative ways we will be celebrating birthdays at Monteith!

- Students may bring in bookmarks, pencils, erasers, stickers, etc. to share when they are celebrating a birthday. Please remember to keep this reasonable and follow non-food guidelines that will be set by the classroom teachers.
- Students will receive a special Birthday Book and surprises (bookmark, pencil, eraser, and/or stickers, etc.) from the office!
- New this year: Each Birthday Student will be on the announcements!
- New this year: We will be celebrating ½ birthdays for students with summer birthdays.
 - June birthdays (after June 11) will be celebrated in December
 - July birthdays will be celebrated in January
 - August birthdays will be celebrated in February

Enjoy your special day!

Holiday and Classroom Parties/Picnics!!!!

Below is the Monteith Elementary approved list of foods that can be used during classroom parties.

Remember to always read food labels, as processing and ingredients may change. You may find safe versions of:

- Rice crackers or cakes
- Fruit, applesauce, vegetables
- Chips (potato, corn or soy- view ingredients), popcorn, corn nachos, gluten free pretzels
- Cheese/Cheese Sticks
- Fruit rolls, dried fruit, fruit roll-ups, fruit by the foot
- Marshmallows, Hershey Chocolate/Kisses, Tootsie Rolls
- Skittles, Starbursts, Jolly Ranchers
- Jello, Puddings, Custard, Yogurt
- Juices that are 100 percent fruit, Water, Milk, SwissMiss Hot Chocolate
- Stroh's/Edy's/ Turkey Hill Vanilla Ice Cream

There may be other appropriate items to choose from. Unfortunately, manufacturers may change ingredients at any time. Therefore, every time you purchase an item you need to read the ingredient list. Reading label and consulting with classroom teacher is essential before bringing food into the school for holiday/classroom parties.

We appreciate your understanding and dedication to keeping Monteith safe for all children!!!!