

**Northbridge Public Schools**  
**Protocol for Food During the School Day**  
**(Grades 5 through 8)**  
**Protocol for: ADF**

Northbridge Public Schools has developed a protocol for food celebrations in the classroom to address two issues:

There has been an increase in life-threatening food allergies in our schools.

New legislation has been passed which supports Northbridge Public Schools' efforts to help prevent obesity in children.

**Celebrations In The Classroom**

We encourage non-food celebrations; however we realize that at times food is an important and appropriate part of a celebration.

1. **There will no longer be an allowable foods list.** Ingredients change on an almost daily basis, and there is no safe way to guarantee that a food that seemed safe this week will be safe next week.
2. No food will be brought in to share with the entire class.
3. When a teacher chooses to plan a celebration, parents will be asked to send in a special snack for their student to enjoy during the celebration. Teachers have the option to have students decorate a bag to bring home for the snack, or to provide one for the snack. They may also ask the parents to provide a bag.
4. Sharing of snacks among students is not allowed.
5. At the beginning of the year, when parents sign the Food Permission Form, they will be informed of the possibility of being asked to provide a snack for a special celebration. The following statement will be included on the permission form:
  - a. If your student's teacher chooses to have a classroom celebration, you will be asked to provide your student with a special snack for the occasion.

**Curriculum Related Food Lessons**

When a teacher decides to include food as part of the curriculum, he/she will send permission forms home 7 calendar days before the lesson.

At the beginning of the year, a general food permission form will be included in the forms sent home on the first day of school for every student. On this form, parents/guardians will be able to indicate if their child can participate in any curriculum related food lesson during the school year, or if the student has a special circumstance and the parent/guardian must be informed of the food to be provided. During the school year, teachers will only need to send permission forms home with students who require permission for each food lesson or to students who do not have a permission form on file at school. The nurse in each building will keep track of the food permission forms and will provide teachers with the list of students who require permission forms for each food related lesson. Permission forms must be sent home at least 7 days before the food is to be provided. If a student cannot have a food, the teacher and parent/guardian will work out an acceptable alternative food.

During some teaching units students are asked to bring in homemade food that enhances a unit or lesson plan. If a teacher is including homemade food during a lesson such as this, a letter will be sent home to parents of students who require permission describing the event and the foods that will be available (e.g. homemade food representing cultures studied in our lesson) at least 7 calendar days before the event. If a student cannot sample the homemade foods, the teacher and parent will work out an alternative that will still allow the student to participate in some way. An example would be having that parent/student make a cultural food item that that student can eat. Teachers and parents are responsible to remind the student that he/she cannot sample the foods.

### **Rewards and Incentives**

Food will not be used as a reward or incentive for any student unless indicated in an IEP or 504 plan.

As always, children are not allowed to share snacks or food with each other, either in school, on the bus, or at school sponsored events such as Field Trips.

**Permission Form for Food in the Classroom  
(Grades 5-8 only)**

At times during the school year, teachers will use food to enhance a classroom lesson. Due to the number of food allergies among students, we need to know whether or not your child may have food that is provided in class. If your child cannot participate in a food related lesson, you may indicate it below. The teacher will contact you at least 7 calendar days before each lesson with a permission slip listing the foods to be served. If your child cannot participate, the teacher will contact you to discuss alternative foods. Please return this form to school by **September 7, 2017**.

**If this form is not returned to school, your child may not be able to participate in curriculum related food activities.**

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Please cut and return to school

**Permission for Food in the Classroom**

\_\_\_\_\_ My child \_\_\_\_\_ does have food allergies or sensitivities to \_\_\_\_\_ and **MAY NOT** participate in all food celebrations. Please inform me of foods that will be provided in the classroom and the ingredients of the food before the lesson.

**\*\* (All students with an EpiPen will receive a permission form before all food activities) \*\***

\_\_\_\_\_ My child \_\_\_\_\_ does not have any known food allergies and **MAY** participate in any food related lessons/celebrations in the classroom.

**\*\* If your student's teacher chooses to have a classroom celebration, you will be asked to provide your student with a special snack for the occasion.**

**I will contact the school nurse about any changes in my child's medical condition that might need to be considered for food related lessons.**

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_