



Immaculate Conception Cathedral School
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July 10, 2014

Dear Parents,

As we know, food allergies can be potentially fatal and there is, unfortunately, no cure. The only way to avoid a reaction is to avoid the offending food. At this time we are aware of students in Pre-K through Middle School who suffer from severe peanut and/or tree nut related allergies specifically, that may require Epi Pen administration.

In light of this information, **ALL CLASSROOMS** have been declared **NUT-FREE CLASSROOMS**. Parents are not to send any food items to school that contain peanuts or nut products. **Labels must be checked each time a product is purchased**, as products may come from different manufacturing facilities at different times. **Please be aware of lunches and snacks, both during school and after school for meetings, club activities, and tutoring.**

When reading food labels, we must avoid any item which:

- Contains peanuts or tree nuts
- May contain traces of peanuts or tree nuts
- Manufactured or processed in a facility that processes, handles, or shares equipment with peanuts or tree nuts

Any peanut substitute, such as Wow Butter, must be labeled with each use.

We have included two helpful resources with this letter. "*How You Can Be a PAL to Friends Who Have Food Allergies*" outlines five steps everyone should take to protect those with life threatening allergies. A second resource lists information as to how to read a label for a nut-free environment. To learn more about food allergies you may visit the Food Allergy Research & Education website, www.foodallergy.org.

The Diocese of Lake Charles Food and Nutrition program has communicated to us that while peanuts and peanut butter are **not** in Diocesan School lunches, they cannot guarantee that *ingredients* are nut-free and have not been *processed* in plants that use nuts. Therefore, the faculty and staff continue to implement classroom and cafeteria safety protocols as part of their responsibility in maintaining a safe environment for all of our students.

Thank you in advance for cooperating with these protocols and doing your part to maintain the safety of all students. We look forward to great school year!

Sincerely,

Christi Jarreau

Strengthening Spirits... Minds... Bodies... Through the Teachings of Jesus Christ