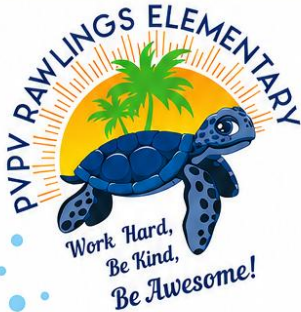




St. Johns County's Protocol and Guidelines for Allergy-Aware Celebrations, Rewards, and Food Activities

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The St. Johns County School District encourages schools, staff, and families to create celebrations and recognition activities that do not rely on food. When food is included in classroom celebrations or activities, parent/guardian notification, disclosure of the specific foods to be served, and documented parent/guardian permission are required to promote student health, support informed family decision-making, and help protect students with food allergies and other medically necessary dietary restrictions. These protocols and guidelines are intended to foster safe, inclusive classroom environments while minimizing the risk of food-related adverse reactions.

PROTOCOLS FOR CLASSROOM FOOD ACTIVITIES, PARENT NOTIFICATION, AND PERMISSION

Prior to any classroom event, celebration, curriculum activity, or reward involving food:

- 1 Teachers must provide parents/guardians with **at least 2 weeks advance notice** through ParentSquare or another district-approved communication platform.
- 2 The notice must identify the exact food items to be offered, including:
 - Exact Food being provided
 - Brand name (when applicable)
 - Date and reason for the activity
- 3 All food provided in the classroom **must be commercially prepared and store-bought**. Homemade foods, foods prepared in private residences, and foods without original packaging are not permitted.
- 4 All food items must remain in their **original packaging** and include a nutrition facts label and ingredient list.
- 5 Parents/guardians must complete the **district-approved permission form** indicating whether their child is authorized to participate in the food activity.
- 6 Only students with a **signed parent/guardian permission** response authorizing participation in the specific food activity may consume the foods provided.
- 7 Permission granted for one activity **does not constitute permission for future activities**. Separate notification and permission shall be required whenever different food items are offered.
- 8 Parents must provide an **approved alternate food item** for their child if they do not give their child permission to participate in the planned classroom food activity.

The district reserves the right to prohibit food activities in classrooms where student safety could be compromised.

SAMPLE PERMISSION FORM:

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOOD ACTIVITY PERMISSION REQUEST

To support student safety and accommodate dietary restrictions, families will be notified at least 2 weeks in advance of when food/treats will be provided for any classroom event, celebration, curriculum activity, or reward involving food. Please review the information below and indicate your child's participation preference.

Event/Activity: _____ Date of Event: _____

Teacher/Classroom: _____

FOOD/TREATS TO BE PROVIDED

List all store-bought food and beverage items to be served, including brand names (i.e., Pepperidge Farm Goldfish Crackers, Papa Johns Cheese Pizza, Capri Sun Juice Pouch, etc.)

Brand	Food

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

Student Name: _____

☐ YES – I give permission for my child to consume all food and/or beverages listed above.

☐ NO – I do not give permission for my child to consume the food and/or beverages listed above. I understand that I am responsible for providing an approved alternate snack, beverage, or treat for my child.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teacher Acknowledgement Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this completed form to the teacher by: _____