

San Domenico School

Information for Parents of Students with Food Allergies

The incidence of children with severe food allergies who are at risk for a severe reaction (anaphylaxis) is on the rise. At San Domenico School, we strive to help all of our students succeed in their school experience. We have taken steps to address food allergies: no sharing of food, drinks or utensils between students, no food will be eaten on the buses unless medically necessary, nuts are not allowed/served in the primary or middle school, and all identified students with severe allergies have a school plan on file in Health Services and Epi Pens if ordered.

In addition to a Food Allergy Action Plan that is to be completed by your child's allergy specialist annually, San Domenico School requires parents of students with severe allergies to:

- Meet with the school nurse prior to the start of school to discuss changes in your child's plan, provide an overall update and to drop off 2 Epi Pens to be kept at school.
- Meet with your child's allergy doctor as recommended and keep Health Services aware of any changes: Epi Pen dose change, allergen removed or added after testing, anything that can help us help your child. Health Services is the first line of communication between the parents and the school regarding any health-related concern.
- Assess the level of risk in having your child eat food prepared at and served at school. Cafeterias pose a high risk for persons with food allergies. Your child's doctor may advise you to prepare food at home. San Domenico School uses an independent company, Epicurean, to provide all of the food and snacks served at school. The daily menu, which typically is posted a month in advance, is subject to change without notice. ***Due to the risk of cross-contamination, improper or incomplete labeling, outsourcing and other factors out of the control of Epicurean, Epicurean and San Domenico School cannot absolutely guarantee that anything served is completely free of nuts, eggs, or other food allergens.*** The doctor should decide, in conjunction with the child's parents, if the cafeteria is or is not the safe choice. The school expects parents to follow medical advice and to advise us if they are not so next steps can be determined.
- Epicurean will seek to provide dishes appropriate to all children and in general, dishes cannot be customized for one person.
- Remind your child that San Domenico is a nut-restricted campus in grades PK through 8. The High School follows a "nut-awareness" policy. Students, faculty and staff are made aware of nut-restrictions in the dining hall and the rest of the campus.
- Remind your child of what to do if they suspect they are having a reaction and review with them the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis.
- Provide "safe snacks" for your child's classroom so they can be given to him/her during special events such as classroom parties.

