

Valley View Elementary School  
PUSD Board Policy on School Parties / Celebrations

**Guidelines Regarding Food for School Parties/Celebrations**

In an effort to protect students with severe food allergies, diabetes, and other health conditions and preserve instructional time, the following guidelines have been developed for all elementary schools.

1. Birthday celebrations – No food treats are allowed in school for any birthday celebrations. Birthdays are special to students. If parents would like their child to share something with his/her class in honor of his/her birthday, here are some suggestions: a book, playground equipment, or rainy day game for the classroom collection, pencils/erasers for classmates, or a plant to plant in school garden if there is one. Teachers may also choose other ways to acknowledge these days, such as allowing student be the line leader, student of the day, or being teacher's helper for a day. Parents will not be allowed to send toys, flowers, or balloons etc. to students in their classrooms. Any deliveries will be returned to the sender.
2. Classroom parties – Classroom parties should be limited to no more than 4 times a year. Parents must be notified in advance of classroom parties. All foods are to be store bought and clearly labeled with ingredients or prepared according to District Policy 5537. Students with food allergies and/or other health conditions should be taken into consideration when planning classroom parties. To encourage healthy behavior, refreshments for class parties should include light snacks and beverages with an emphasis on healthy snack choices such as cheese, crackers, fruits, and vegetables.
3. Grade level/school-wide celebrations – Parents must be notified in advance of grade level and school-wide events that involve food. All foods are to be store bought and clearly labeled with ingredients or prepared according to District Policy 5537. Students with food allergies should be taken into consideration when planning these events.

Resources:

FAAN website: <http://www.foodallergy.org>

Management of Life-Threatening Allergies Policy and Regulation 5536

Food Provided for School Functions Policy and Regulation 5537

Students Wellness Policy and Regulation 5030

Updated March 12, 2012..

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