

SCHUYLERVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Parent & Student Handbook For 2021-22



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Schuylerville Elementary and a new school year! We are looking forward to working with you as we provide your child with innovative educational experiences. Our goal is to support each child and their individual needs to achieve his or her personal best.

The Parent & Student Handbook gives families in our school community important information about our school and its programs. We ask that you read through the material here and review with your child the rules outlined for the bus, playground and school. Student expectations can be summarized by the following simple rules: treat others as you would like to be treated, respect other people's property and personal space, be an active learner, and follow directions. The content in our handbook will serve as an excellent frame of reference for you and your child throughout the school year.

The Attendance Policy is included in the handbook. Good attendance has proven to have a positive impact on learning and supports essential skills to be followed in life. We will send home notices throughout the year to alert you to special testing dates and school events to assist you in planning ahead.

Parents are an integral part of our education program. By staying involved and well informed, you significantly contribute to your child's educational program and experience at school. Parents as Educational Partners (PEP) is very active and supports our school programs in many ways. PEP sponsors many events for the children and their families throughout the school year. Green Ribbon Schools (GRS) is another educational program that is extremely active and provides numerous green initiatives for our students. These two very successful programs give parents and children the opportunity to build relationships with each other and with the staff. When we work as a team, the positive results are endless.

Our school takes great pride in our exceptionally skilled and devoted staff. Schuylerville Elementary School has a warm and friendly atmosphere that fosters growth in all children. We are very proud of all that we do for the children, keeping them in the forefront of all of our decisions. The partnership that we cultivate is essential to your child's education. We welcome and encourage you to work with us as partners in your child's education. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a successful and rewarding school year.

Sincerely,

Rose Beckett, Principal
beckettr@schuylerville.org

Schuylerville Elementary School Contact Information

ADDRESS: 14-18 Spring Street, Schuylerville, NY, 12871

WEBSITE: www.schuylervilleschools.org

PHONE #: 695-3255

FAX: (518) 695 – 6405

Rose Beckett, Principal, ext. 1221

Our Mission Statement: Schooling ■ Caring ■ Succeeding

At Schuylerville Central School District, the academic achievement and development of the whole child will be the driving force in enriching opportunities for all students through academics and extracurricular activities.

Student Policies & Services

VISITORS TO SCHOOLS

Scheduled visits by parents are welcome in the Schuylerville Elementary School. All visitors to the school must report to the main entrance using the buzzer system, sign the visitor’s register and obtain a visitor’s pass, which must be displayed at all times. The visitor must sign out at the conclusion of the visit.

Visitors are not to visit other areas of the school unless a prearranged appointment has been made. We ask that visitors only travel to the designated area they signed in for at the main office. We appreciate the assistance in maintaining a safe learning environment for the Schuylerville Learning Community.

THE SCHOOL DAY

School begins	9:00 a.m.
Dismissal begins	2:50-3:15 p.m.

****We ask that dismissal changes be made by 10:00 a.m. to allow for adequate preparedness. Any student leaving school early can be signed out at the Main Office. Dismissal changes are made for emergency reasons only.**

ATTENDANCE

Excused vs. unexcused absences and tardiness

It is each student’s basic responsibility as a member of the school community to be on time and attend all classes. Daily telephone calls will be made to parents or guardians to confirm unreported absences.

The following reasons for pupil absences, tardiness and early departure shall be considered by the Board of Education to be excused:

- a. illness;
- b. illness or death in the family;
- c. unsafe travel conditions;
- d. religious observance;
- e. medical appointments;
- f. quarantine;
- g. required court appearances;
- h. participation in a school sponsored activity;

- i. approved college visits;
- j. approved cooperative work programs; and
- k. parent approved activities (such as oversleeping, employment and other activities that can be scheduled outside of the school day).

The district will support and encourage a student's effort to maintain or improve school attendance. Each student has a right to educational opportunities that will enable the student to develop his or her fullest potential. Attendance policies are based on the principle that regular school attendance maximizes the student's interaction with his or her teachers and peers and is a major component of academic success. Successful implementation of any attendance policy requires cooperation among all members of the education community, including parents, students, teachers, administrators and support staff.

We urge parents to make children's non-emergency medical and dental appointments either after school, on weekends, or during vacation periods.

If your child will be absent from school or late to school, please notify the Attendance Clerk, at 518-695-3255, ext. 1225, prior to 9:00 a.m.

Good attendance impacts learning. Attendance data will be analyzed periodically to identify patterns or trends in student absences.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH PARENTS

Website

Please check the district website at www.schuylervilleschools.org often. This is a great information source on all aspects of the Schuylerville School District.

School Closing & Delays

The Superintendent of Schools may decide to cancel or delay the start of school in the event of severe weather, hazardous road conditions or other emergency. School closings or delays will first be announced on the district website as well as on local television stations. You will also be notified via email and/or text by our SchoolMessenger mass communication system.

CHANGE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

For emergency purposes, the school must have up to date information on each student. Please notify the Main Office of any changes of address. Also, please notify the Main Office of any changes in phone numbers including work and cell phones.

CHANGE IN TRANSPORTATION

The District provides student transportation to and from your home. Students will be picked up and dropped off at their scheduled stop unless the school is informed in writing. If the change is long term, please be sure to complete the "Change in Dismissal" form in the event that your child needs to be picked up and/or dropped off at another location.

REPORT CARDS AND CONFERENCES

Report cards are mailed home quarterly. Certain days have been established for parent/teacher conferences. Parent/teacher conferences are opportunities during which time parents will learn about their child's progress in class.

REQUESTING ASSIGNMENTS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ILL

If your child is absent from school and you feel that he/she is capable of working on assignments during an illness, you may request work. Please call the Main Office and indicate if the work is to be sent home with another child, or if you plan to pick it up yourself by 4:00 p.m. The teachers will do their best to accommodate you.

SCHOOL FOOD SERVICES

Please visit the district website to learn about the food services program and to access monthly lunch menus. Also, feel free to contact the Food Services Manager at 518-695-3255, ext. 2290 if you have any questions.

Elementary School Code of Conduct Guidelines & Expectations



- Treat others with respect
- Respect other people's property
- Keep everyone safe
- Be an active learner

School is a place where children can learn the importance of following the rules. All of us benefit from living, working, and growing together by knowing how we should and should not act. At Schuylerville Elementary we offer support, trust, and understanding along with the enforcement of rules as a way of helping children learn appropriate behavior. Together, these elements give students the opportunity to acquire the habits and attitudes required to become positive, productive members of a community.

PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they engage in conduct that is:

1. Disorderly, including language or gestures that is profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive, or engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
2. Insubordinate, including failing to comply with the reasonable directions of staff members or otherwise demonstrating disrespect, tardiness, missing and/or leaving school without permission.
3. Disruptive, including failing to comply with the reasonable directions of school personnel in charge of students.
4. Violent, including committing an act of violence such as hitting, kicking, punching, biting and scratching upon a staff member or student; possessing a weapon; displaying what appears to be a weapon; threatening to use any weapon or what appears to be a weapon; and intentionally damaging or destroying school property or property belonging to another student or staff member.
5. Endangering the safety, health, or welfare of others, including (but not limited to) lying to school personnel, stealing the property of others, discrimination as a basis for treating another in a negative manner, harassment which is intended to be perceived as ridiculing or demeaning.
6. Misconduct while on the school bus, including excessive noise, pushing, shoving, fighting, and actions prohibited in school.
7. Bullying. No form of bullying will be tolerated in the Schuylerville Elementary School. The definition of bullying is as follows:

Bullying is a conscious, willful, deliberate activity intended to harm in which the bully uses power to cause pain and/or misery. It may include as its focus, but is not limited to, physical attributes, mental ability/disability, race, ethnicity, weight, religious practice, gender, sexual orientation (or perceived sexual orientation), socio-economic status, or other differences (perceived or real). It includes all forms of hazing and cyber bullying that may have an effect on our school environment. It can be and often is continuous and repeated, but does not have to be. Once is enough to constitute bullying.

Elementary COVID-19 Code of Conduct

The following section pertains to the unprecedented impact COVID-19 has had on our district. Rather than place each of these additions into the parent/student handbook under sections that already exist, we thought it would be most beneficial and explicit to put our emergency based, COVID-19 related updates in one section. Please keep in mind that the full code of conduct and all expectations, in addition to what is listed below will apply during the 2021-22 school year.

Schuylerville Central School District believes that the students should reflect acceptable standards of responsibility and the degree of good citizenship demanded of members of a democratic society. The district has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on our core principles of respect, integrity, dignity, responsibility, citizenship, compassion, resilience, tolerance, commitment and accomplishment.

Due to extended emergencies, there may be times during the school year where students are learning in a variety of settings. The unpredictable circumstances might dictate the need to transition from one version of learning to another, often in a short period of time. It is imperative, not only for the health and safety of students, teachers, support personnel and administrators, but also to protect the academic integrity of our great district, that we clearly outline how our Code of Conduct will apply and be enforced. Section VI of the SCSD Code of Conduct outlines Prohibited Student Conduct. It expertly states that “the best discipline is self-imposed and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior.” Just as we will have clear grading and attendance policies that must be followed, we will also be enforcing the code of conduct while instruction is taking place.

All elementary students will be expected to adhere to the academic and behavioral expectations outlined by administrators, faculty and support personnel during any remote or hybrid learning period. Students will follow all components of the code of conduct, as well as any emergency additions, which include, but are not limited to social distancing, PPE regulations, interior and exterior directional patterns, parking requirements, health guidelines and safety regulations.

Non-Negotiables (items listed under this section were provided by NYS Department of Health, New York State Education Department and will be approached with zero tolerance due to the severe health and safety implications of non-compliance)

Health and Safety

- Wear an appropriately fitting mask at all times, as designated by school administrators, teachers, support personnel and signage.
- Mask guidelines are designed to protect the individual, as well as those they interact with and must be followed while on all school property.
- Misuse of the mask or other PPE to distract, disrupt or negatively impact the learning environment is prohibited.
- Social distancing guidelines vary based on what setting a student is in.
- Students will respect social distancing guidelines.
- Strict adherence to all entrance, exit and hallway traffic patterns.

- Engaging in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others.

Attendance

- Students will follow a daily schedule regardless of the model of instruction. Whether in-person or temporarily remote, students will attend classes and engage in the academic process. The process of education requires a continuity of instruction, including classroom participation, student interaction and well-planned instructional activity.

Student Behavior

- Engaging in conduct that is disorderly and/or disruptive, which may include:
 - Engaging in a willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
- Engaging in computer/electronics communications misuse which includes:
 - The use of an electronic device during the school day interfering with the educational day.
 - Unauthorized use of computer software or Internet account, accessing inappropriate websites, sharing of passwords, downloading of non-educational material, altering and/or tampering with the computer system and/or computer setting or any other violation of the district's acceptable use policy.
 - Use of the Internet, telephones, cell phones or other technological means to threaten, harass or denigrate other students or school personnel is prohibited.
- Engaging in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct include, but are not limited to:
 - Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students.
 - Demonstrating disrespect towards school personnel or students.

Cafeteria

The cafeteria space has been significantly redesigned to meet the safety requirements and health regulations set forth by the Department of Health and New York State Education Department. Not only was the schedule modified to greatly reduce the density, but we had to completely reimagine how lunch will look, ranging from service to seating and everything in between. The new cafeteria procedures fall under the non-negotiable category, again because of the need to adhere to strict health and safety measures. Again, reiterating the importance of following the rules, remaining seated, abiding by directional patterns and being respectful will go a long way in ensuring everyone's health and safety.

Campus Hours

Campus hours will be 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. unless person(s) is on campus for a school activity.

Co-Curriculars

Co-Curriculars may be impacted as a result of the health and safety regulations imposed by NYS. Additionally, this may not be a one size fits all situation.

Arrival

The arrival process has been significantly redesigned to meet the safety requirements and health regulations set forth by the Department of Health and New York State Education

Department. The new arrival procedures fall under the non-negotiable category, again because of the need to adhere to strict health and safety measures. In order to do this, avoid mass congregating at the main entrance and reduce density, we are utilizing other entrances as arrival zones. ALL ARRIVAL ZONES/DOORS WILL HAVE ASSIGNED STAFF MEMBERS. Student will be assigned to specific entrances based on whether they:

Parent Drop Off	Grade K	Elementary Side Entrance (near playground)
Parent Drop Off/Walkers	Grades 1-5	Elementary Main Entrance
School Transportation	Grade K	Elementary Side Entrance (near playground)
School Transportation	Grades 1-5	Student Services Entrance

Students will be expected to maintain social distance, wear their mask once they enter campus and follow all health and safety requirements. Student cooperation is expected at all times.

Dismissal

All students will be expected to dismiss from their classroom at the end of the day. This is an extremely important step because for safely ensuring all students follow their arranged dismissal plan. Students are expected to find and get in their mode of transportation expeditiously, avoid congregating anywhere on campus and depart in a safe and orderly manner.

Walkers	Grades 1-5	Elementary Main Entrance
Parent Pick Up	Grade K-5	Elementary Gym Exit
School Transportation	Grade K	Elementary Side Entrance (near playground)
School Transportation	Grades 1-5	Elementary Main Entrance

Our Appreciation

We have always taken great pride in the tremendous partnership between school and home. Extended emergencies require an even greater need for collaboration. We thank you in advance, knowing that during these difficult times, the students will benefit in a much greater fashion when everyone is moving in the same direction and working cooperatively. Furthermore, we trust that it is universally understood that every decision we make is with the health and safety of our students, schools, families and community.

Schuylerville Central School District Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Plain Language Summary

In accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act (effective July 1, 2012) the Schuylerville Board of Education recognizes that a safe and supportive learning environment is essential for promoting student

attendance and academic achievement. Incidents of discrimination and harassment, including but not limited to bullying, taunting and intimidation, can interfere with a student's ability to learn and the district's ability to educate its students. Therefore, the district is committed to creating an environment that is free of discrimination and harassment and will promote civility throughout the school to prevent and prohibit conduct that is inconsistent with that goal.

The district prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment of students by school employees or other students on school property, at school-sponsored activities and events that take place off school property. The district prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation or gender.

Students who fail to act in a respectful, dignified and civil manner toward others while on school property or at a school-sponsored function, may be subject to formal disciplinary action, including a referral, detention, in-school suspension, short-term out-of-school suspension or long-term out-of-school suspension.

The district will investigate and document every reported incident of discrimination and harassment on school property or at school sponsored events. Incidents may be reported to a building administrator or Dignity Act Coordinator by students, parents, school employees or concerned community members. The building administrator and/or the Dignity Act Coordinator will interview alleged victims, witnesses and other relevant individuals. Disciplinary consequences will be assigned as appropriate according to the District Code of Conduct.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

- Students have the right to take part in all district activities on an equal basis, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation or gender.
- Students have the right to be protected from intimidation, harassment or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation or gender, by school employees or other students.
- Students have the responsibility to respect one another and treat each other fairly, civilly and with dignity according to the Student Code of Conduct, other district policies and the Dignity for All Students Act.
- Students have the responsibility to promote an environment that is free from intimidation, harassment or discrimination.
- Students have the responsibility to report incidents of discrimination and harassment that are experienced, witnessed, or otherwise brought to their attention. Incidents are to be reported in a timely manner to the building administrator and/or Dignity Act Coordinator.

Parent/Guardian Rights and Responsibilities

- Parents/guardians have the responsibility to teach their children respect and dignity toward themselves and others, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation or gender.
- Parents have the responsibility to report incidents of discrimination and harassment that are witnessed or otherwise brought to their attention. Incidents are to be reported in a timely manner to the building administrator and/or Dignity Act Coordinator.

School Employee Responsibilities

- School employees have the responsibility maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity.

School employees have the responsibility to confront issues of discrimination and harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee or any person who is lawfully on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event.

- School employees have the responsibility to address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students in the school or classroom setting.
- School employees have the responsibility to report incidents of discrimination and harassment that are witnessed or otherwise brought to their attention. Incidents are to be reported in a timely manner to the building administrator and/or Dignity Act Coordinator.

Dignity Act Coordinator

At least one staff member in each school will be thoroughly trained to handle human relations in the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation or gender. The Dignity Act Coordinator will be accessible to students and staff members for consultation and advice regarding the expectations of the Dignity for All Students Act.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Dignity Coordinators</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Elementary School</u> Rose Beckett Cassandra Luthringer</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Middle School</u> Mary Kate Elsworth Erin Welch</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>High School</u> Jordan Tezanos Sarah Rust</p>
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Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to take part in all district activities on an equal basis, regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, or gender.

Students have the right to be protected from intimidation, harassment or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, or gender, by school employees or other students.

Students have the responsibility to respect one another and treat each other fairly, civilly, and with dignity according to the Student Code of Conduct, other district policies, and the Dignity for All Students Act.

Students have the responsibility to promote an environment that is free from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination.

Students have the responsibility to report incidents of discrimination and harassment that are experienced, witnessed, or otherwise brought to their attention. Incidents are to be reported in a timely manner to the building administrator and/or Dignity Act Coordinator.

CLASSROOM RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

The classroom is the prime learning environment of the school. It is a pupil's responsibility to put forth his or her best effort every day and all day. Students should know the expected behaviors and rules for their classroom set forth by their teacher. These rules assist students in making classrooms a good place to learn and a happy place to be.

Consequences

The consequences for inappropriate conduct are developed to help make our elementary schools safe, clean, and happy places to learn, work and play together. The rules apply everywhere in our school including the playground, cafeteria, bus and any school function.

1. Parents will be notified of any problem.
2. Students may have to stay for after school detention.
3. Students may have lunch detention.
4. Students may have a meeting with the principal.
5. Parents may have a meeting with the principal.

STUDENT CONDUCT IN THE CAFETERIA

To make lunch time more enjoyable for everyone at school, the cafeteria/lunchroom all students should:

1. Respect the cafeteria staff, each other & each other's personal space.
2. Walk in the cafeteria.
3. Talk in a quiet, conversational voice.
4. Eat food in an acceptable manner.
5. Keep hands and feet to yourself.
6. Clean up area after eating.
7. Keep uneaten food on trays and empty trays carefully.
8. Remain seated until dismissed by teacher.

STUDENT CONDUCT AT SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES/FIELD TRIPS

1. Sits where an adult in charge instructs, and remains seated during assembly. If the need arises, the student leaves only with permission from the supervising adult.
2. Watches and listens to performances and speakers.
3. Leaves at the end of the assembly in an orderly fashion, following the directions of the adult in charge.

STUDENT CONDUCT IN THE HALLWAY

For the safety of all, when in the hallways, students are expected to:

1. Remain silent and walk in a straight line.
2. Keep your hands to yourself.
3. Maintain your personal space.

RECESS & PLAYGROUND RULES

Students will have the opportunity to go outside for recess throughout the school year. For the safety and enjoyment of all pupils at recess, students are expected to:

1. Stay on designated playground or area with their teacher.
2. Respect others, take turns, share and allow others to play.
3. Maintain a safe distance from playground equipment while it is being used by others.
4. Stay away from icy/muddy areas.
5. Refrain from using foul language, offensive names, or put-downs.
6. Refrain from roughhousing and hands to yourself.

STUDENT CONDUCT ON THE BUS

Students are expected to:

1. Always listen to the school bus driver, who is in charge of getting students to school and home safely.
2. Show respect. No “horseplay,” talking back, or any form of defiance is allowed on the bus or at the bus stop, including abusive language, fighting, yelling, whistling, or throwing snowballs.
3. Keep head, hands, feet and property inside the bus windows. Students will sit properly while riding on the bus. Keep hands, feet and belongings out of the aisle while on the bus.
4. Keep the inside of the bus clean.
5. No food or drink on buses.
6. Never tamper with the emergency windows or door.
7. Remain seated without pushing, changing seats, or throwing things in the bus.
8. Wait to cross the road until the driver signals that it is okay.
9. Wait for the bus, without standing too close to the road

Discipline problems will be referred in writing by the bus driver to the school principal. All school rules apply while students are riding the buses. All students riding school buses are expected to maintain good conduct while traveling.

Students should not bring anything on the bus that is bigger than they can hold. Parents should arrange to transport very large musical instruments, school projects, etc. It is extremely important that students do not eat on the bus due to the growing number of children with severe allergies.

ELECTRONICS & TOYS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Cell phones, flash lights, laser lights, electronic games, portable music devices, and other electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom. Toys and hobby materials coming to school also present a number of problems, including loss, breakage, and theft. We would prefer that parents discourage children from bringing toy and hobby items to school. The school district is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged items. Your teacher may permit certain types of toys, games, or equipment to be brought to school in certain circumstances. Please follow your teacher's instructions.

Student Health & Safety

A child's ability to learn is influenced by his or her health. The school provides both health assessment and health information to enhance the quality of education and the quality of the life for the students.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION & SAFETY

These rules are to ensure the safety of students and employees of the district while on district property. All students and members of the school community must:

1. Immediately report any conditions involving equipment or buildings that may be dangerous to student or employee health or welfare;
2. Immediately report any unsafe practices by anyone in the building or on the grounds.

FIRST AID

First aid is given to students throughout the school day by the school nurse or authorized personnel for injuries that occur during the school day. Medical treatment of a previous injury or condition can occur only with orders from the student's physician along with parent permission. Students should not be sent to school for diagnosis and/or treatment of an injury sustained during non-school hours.

ILLNESS

If you suspect your child may be ill, please do not send him or her to school. Some considerations:

1. A child's temperature should be normal without medication (Tylenol or Advil) for 24 hours before he or she returns to school.
2. Your child's pediatrician is the best source of information and advice in regard to your child's health or illness. You are also welcome to call the Health Office with any questions you may have: 695-3255, extension 1220/1229.

MEDICATION

Medications can be administered by the school nurse under the following guidelines:

1. Written permission from both the parent or guardian and physician are required in order for the school to administer medication as per New York State Education Law. All medications including over the counter preparations, such as Tylenol, Advil, cough drops, and topical ointments, require permission from both the physician and parent/guardian as well.
2. The doctor's order needs to include the name of the student, the name of the medication, doses, route, and time to be administered during the school day.
3. An adult must bring the medication to school in the original container. The container must be properly labeled with correct name of student, name of the medicine, dose, time to be administered, etc. A child cannot transport medication back and forth to school due to the danger of loss or accidental misuse of the medication.

If your child is taking a medication at home that may impact his or her school performance or wellness, please notify the Health Office.

ALLERGIES – PEANUT/NUT FREE CLASSROOMS

Our staff has been trained to manage the child's health concern, but would like to request your support by asking you to send in snacks that do not contain nuts, peanuts and/or peanut butter. Only fruits, vegetables and pre-packaged foods that have no peanut or nut ingredients will be allowed in the classroom.

Please read all labels for any peanut, peanut butter, peanut oil, peanut flour or any other nuts. If a label says, "may contain peanut peanuts/nuts", "made in a facility that processes peanuts/nuts" or "manufactured on equipment that processes peanuts/nuts" then the product is not guaranteed safe by the company and will not be permitted in the classroom. Please see a list of foods to avoid below. Students may bring peanut/nut products for lunch as lunches are stored outside the classroom.

How to read labels for a Peanut/Nut Free Classroom

How to Read a Label for a Tree Nut-Free Diet

All FDA-regulated manufactured food products that contain a tree nut as an ingredient are required by U.S. law to list the specific tree nut on the product label.

Avoid foods that contain nuts or any of these ingredients:

almond	natural nut extract (e.g., almond, walnut)
artificial nuts	
beechnut	nut butters (e.g., cashew butter)
Brazil nut	nut meal
butternut	nut meat
cashew	nut paste (e.g., almond paste)
chestnut	nut pieces
chinquapin	pecan
coconut	pesto
filbert/hazelnut	pili nut
gianduja (a chocolate-nut mixture)	pine nut (also referred to as Indian, pignoli, pignolia, pignon, piñon, and pinyon nut)
ginkgo nut	pistachio
hickory nut	praline
fitchi/lychee/lychee nut	shea nut
macadamia nut	walnut
marzipan/almond paste	
Nangai nut	

Tree nuts are sometimes found in the following:

black walnut hull extract (flavoring)	nut oils (e.g., walnut oil, almond oil)
natural nut extract	walnut hull extract (flavoring)
nut distillates/alcoholic extracts	

Keep the following in mind:

- Mortadella may contain pistachios.
- There is no evidence that coconut oil and shea nut oil/butter are allergenic.
- Many experts advise patients allergic to tree nuts to avoid peanuts as well.
- Coconut, the seed of a drupaceous fruit, has typically not been restricted in the diets of people with tree nut allergy. However, in October of 2006, the FDA began identifying coconut as a tree nut. Medical literature documents a small number of allergic reactions to coconut; most occurred in people who were not allergic to other tree nuts. Ask your doctor if you need to avoid coconut.
- Talk to your doctor if you find other nuts not listed here.

How to Read a Label for a Peanut-Free Diet

All FDA-regulated manufactured food products that contain peanut as an ingredient are required by U.S. law to list the word "peanut" on the product label.

Avoid foods that contain peanuts or any of these ingredients:

artificial nuts	monkey nuts
beer nuts	nut meat
cold pressed, expeller pressed, or extruded peanut oil	nut pieces
goobers	peanut butter
ground nuts	peanut flour
mixed nuts	peanut protein hydrolysate

Peanut is sometimes found in the following:

African, Asian (especially Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese), and Mexican dishes	egg rolls
baked goods (e.g., pastries, cookies)	enchilada sauce
candy (including chocolate candy)	marzipan
chili	mole sauce
	nougat

Keep the following in mind:

- Mandelonas are peanuts soaked in almond flavoring.
- **The FDA exempts highly refined peanut oil from being labeled as an allergen.** Studies show that most allergic individuals can safely eat peanut oil that has been highly refined (not cold pressed, expeller pressed, or extruded peanut oil). Follow your doctor's advice.
- A study showed that unlike other legumes, there is a strong possibility of cross-reaction between peanuts and lupine.
- Arachis oil is peanut oil.
- Many experts advise patients allergic to peanuts to avoid tree nuts as well.
- Sunflower seeds are often produced on equipment shared with peanuts.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXCUSES

Physical education and physical activity are important parts of a student's school experience and total health. If you feel your child is unable to participate in Physical Education due to an accident or illness, you must request that your child be excused from the day's PE class **in writing**. A doctor's note is required for a child who must be out of gym class for an extended period of time (more than one week). For a child who has been excused from PE for an extended period of time, a physician's note is also required in order for the student to return to class.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FORMS

It is important that the school have accurate and up to date information in the event of an emergency illness or injury that may occur at school.

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

Outlined below are details regarding the process for resolving complaints submitted to the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) Office of ESSA-Funded Programs alleging that a local educational agency (LEA), grantee or NYSED has violated a law, rule, or regulation in the administration of any "covered Federal program" under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA): <http://www.nysed.gov/essa/new-york-state-essa-funded-programs-complaint-procedures>

These procedures offer parents and other stakeholders a process to file complaints and allow for the timely resolution of such complaints. Complaints filed against a local entity such as a school district, charter school, or grantee will be reviewed by NYSED's Office of ESSA-Funded Programs. Complaints filed against NYSED will be reviewed by NYSED's legal counsel.

A complainant may include any of the following: parents, public agencies, and other individuals or organizations. If the complainant is a minor, the complaint or appeal shall also be signed by his or her guardian, unless the statute or rule under which the complaint or appeal is filed prohibits this requirement. Complaints regarding equitable services for non-public schools should follow the procedures detailed at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/nonpub/Ombudsman.html>.

Each LEA in New York State is required to disseminate, free of charge, adequate information about these complaint procedures to parents of students, and appropriate private school officials or representatives.