



PEANUT-FREE POLICY

Da Vinci International School is a peanut-free school. This practice has been implemented to address the needs of several children in our program who have peanut allergies. Simple contact with peanuts, peanut particles, or their oils is **potentially fatal to these children**. Though the program restricts peanuts and peanut products, it is critical that you notify both the director and your child's teachers of any food allergy your student may have, including an allergy to peanuts.

We require the cooperation of all DVIS parents to help us achieve our goal of providing a safe and secure learning environment for our students. Specifically, **we require that parents exclude all peanuts and peanut products from their child's snack and lunch**. Tree-nut products are acceptable, provided they have not been processed with peanuts. Foods sent in for snack, lunch, or any class event (including parties, festivals, etc.) should be carefully checked to ensure they are peanut-free.

Families can help maintain the safety of our students by reading packaging labels and reminding children not to share food with other children at school. It is our goal to minimize opportunities for exposure to harmful food products for our students.

The FDA requires all manufacturers to list on its label if a food item contains peanuts or peanut products. Any food items explicitly labeled as containing peanuts or peanut products are considered banned items. Remember: manufacturing processes change; food items that are now entirely peanut-free may not continue to be. It is imperative to read the ingredient label each time you purchase a food item.

Please refer to the below chart to determine whether a particular food item is acceptable by Da Vinci International School's safety standards:

Label Markers Accepted?

NO = "Contains peanuts"

NO = "Contains traces of peanuts"

NO = "May contain peanuts" or "May contain traces of peanuts"

YES = "Made on equipment that processes peanuts"

YES = "Made in a facility that processes peanuts"

In addition, we ask that **all students thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water each morning, before entering their classrooms**. This simple task will help to decrease the risk of cross-contamination of the classroom environment.

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While we stress vigilance, we understand that mistakes may occur on occasion. If your child brings a peanut product or food item of questionable content to school, his/her teacher will remove the item and seal it in an airtight container, to be returned to the student upon dismissal. (If the item is a large part of your child's lunch, his/her teacher will offer an alternative peanut-free food item.) Your child will be asked to immediately wash his/her hands, and the teacher will thoroughly sanitize the lunch area. By end of day, you will receive email notification of the violation.

It is the sole responsibility of parents/guardians to label as "peanut-free" any peanut-free food item that could reasonably be assumed, by appearance or otherwise, to contain peanuts or peanut products. If you need these stickers please see Administration. (If you so choose, additional stickers may be ordered directly at www.peanutfreezone.com.) Every food item of questionable content must be labeled each time it is sent onto Da Vinci International School campus. Our teachers are trained to make no assumptions regarding the safety of food items; any unlabeled food item of questionable content will, for safety purposes, be assumed to contain peanuts and will be managed accordingly.

Peanut allergies are life-threatening and require strict adherence to established policy. Repeated failure to comply with DVIS Peanut-Free Policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from Da Vinci International School.

Da Vinci International School reserves the right to amend existing allergy policy and implement new allergy policies, consistent with the needs of our students.