

## Center Elementary School

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Dear Center Families,

As you may know, there are many children in the United States with life-threatening food allergies (LTA). According to the Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE) organization and the Centers for Disease Control, 1 out of 13 U.S. children has a LTA, that is approximately 2 in every classroom. Hanover is not different and our statistics mirror that of the nation. The Hanover Public Schools follow all Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control recommendations for managing LTA in schools. You may refer to the School Committee Policy on the district website for more information.

The following are some of the procedures we follow in our schools:

- No eating in the classroom
- No sharing food
- Encourage hand washing before and after eating
- Allergy, Anaphylaxis and EpiPen training for all staff
- Stock epinephrine autoinjector stored in health office
- Nurse attends field trips when needed
- Nut precaution tables in the cafeteria
- Collaboration with food services
- No peanut or tree nut products purchased by Food Services
- Minimize celebrations with food-**all food must be cleared by the School Nurse**
- No homemade food is allowed to be brought in for celebrations.

Families can help by talking with their children about food allergies and helping to reinforce this information at home. Please refer to the links to these websites for additional information:

<https://www.foodallergy.org/living-food-allergies/food-allergy-essentials/common-allergens>

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/foodallergies/>

<https://johnstalkerinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Mng-Allergies.pdf>

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*Hanover Hawks will soar and succeed without limits.*