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## Old Bridge Township Public Schools Jonas Salk Middle School

Where Character Counts 155 West Greystone Road Old Bridge, NJ 08857

## Dear Parent/Guardian

The Jonas Salk Middle School Administration recognizes that several students attending Salk School have allergies to a number of different products. Peanut allergies are the most common type of food allergy, and are frequently associated with other nut allergies. Exposure to even a small amount of peanut or nut foods can cause a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction in those students who are allergic to peanut or nut foods. Moreover, when a student eats a peanut or nut food, there is a chance that residue of the peanut or nut food will remain on the hands, body, or clothing of the student. This leads to a risk that the peanut or nut food residue may be transferred into other areas of the school where the residue may come into contact with students with allergies to peanut or nut foods. Making the situation even more serious is the fact that a few of these students suffer from inhalation allergies to peanut products. The school therefore needs the understanding and help of all parents of students who attend the school. The failure of parents to understand and cooperate with this policy may risk the lives of our students.

Peanut products will not be sold or used in cooking throughout the school. The school has established a peanut-free area in the cafeteria. Your child may bring peanut products to school for lunch, however s/he will be asked to eat them at a peanut-safe table. Parents are asked to please label peanut product lunches, so that our cafeteria staff may direct your child to the appropriate table. All students who digest peanut products before or during school are asked to wash their hands thoroughly to avoid accidental contamination. This plan will help to maintain safety in the school while allowing non-allergic classmates to enjoy peanut/nut products in a controlled environment at lunch. The school will not tolerate teasing, bullying or intimidation about any allergies.

Please note there are many other forms of severe food allergies at our school and your child will be expected to follow similar procedures if they are in class with a child with serious food allergies.

I know that all of our Salk parents treasure their children as their most sacred possession. It is that compassion that assures me that I will have everyone's cooperation in this serious matter. As partners we can provide your child with a safe and enriching environment in which to learn.

Very truly yours,

William Rezes Principal



