



Warren Township Schools

Shining Brighter Every Day

September 1, 2016

Dear Parent / Guardian,

This letter is to inform you of a change to the district's policy concerning wellness and nutrition that was adopted by the Warren Township Board of Education on June 6, 2016.

Effective September 1, 2016, student birthday celebrations shall be food free. This change in policy is intended to provide opportunities to acknowledge student birthdays while maintaining a focus on classroom instruction and overall nutrition and wellness. Alternate activities with which to celebrate/acknowledge student birthdays, such as games, physical activity, or story-reading, are permissible and encouraged.

The purpose of this letter is to provide guidelines for celebrating student birthdays. Elementary schools will continue to acknowledge student birthdays with announcements and special gifts such as pencils, certificates and/or stickers. Classroom teachers will continue the practice of recognizing the birthday within the classroom in a way that is consistent for all children in the class.

If desired, parents are encouraged to contribute to the celebration by doing one of the following:

- Donate a book to the classroom library. A special sticker with your child's name and birthday will be placed inside the book and this book will become part of his/her classroom library.
- Send in a favorite picture book that the child enjoys that the teacher can read aloud to the class.
- Donate a game that the child likes to be used in the classroom during recess periods and like times.
- Have the child create a special word search or activity that the class can complete in fewer than 10 minutes.

Parents should email the teacher ahead of time if they are intending to make a special donation or to have the child create an activity to acknowledge the child's birthday so the teacher can be sure to appropriately communicate with the class about the special event and plan accordingly.

In an effort to promote consistency across the district's elementary schools and maintain a focus on instructional time, the following will not be permitted:

- visitors to the classroom
- goody bags
- toys or gifts to be distributed to classmates
- games/activities that take a considerable amount of time (more than 10 minutes)

Please be assured that the school community understands the importance of acknowledging student birthdays and will make every effort to make the day special within the school for each child.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Mingle