2017-2018 ***East Dubuque Elementary*** ALLERGY AWARENESS

July 20, 2017

Dear Families of East Dubuque Elementary,

During the 2016-2017 school year, we offered an Allergy Forum to discuss our building’s peanut/ tree nut ban. We understand that this issue has been complicated for all involved and want to better meet the (food) needs of all our learners.

***Food as a treat or reward:***

This year the elementary building will be enforcing the policies and practices already in place related to bringing food into the building. Absolutely no food will be allowed in the building for classroom parties or for any other event. We hope you understand that many students have food allergies that may or may not be known to us. A food free environment protects all students from possible allergens. IF you bring food into the building, it will be disposed of. Please do not send edible treats for any event. Two exceptions will be made. Due to our Preschool for All Grant, we will have food in our two preschool rooms and staff will be able to have food in the lounge. No other food of any kind will be allowed in our classrooms. Classroom activities that require food will occur in the cafeteria only. In the round building, students requiring certain foods related to their health needs will consume food in the nurse’s office under adult supervision.

***Breakfast and Lunch:***

Breakfast will now be served in our cafeteria starting at 7:50 a.m. and ending at 8:25 a.m. Only students eating the school breakfast will be allowed into the cafeteria. If you are bringing your child(ren) to school and they are eating our breakfast, they may be dropped off as early as 7:50 a.m.

For lunch, you will be able to send anything you would like your child to eat. We will remove our “peanut butter ban” at lunch to avoid a false sense of safety. We know that peanut products were making their way into our lunchroom and this could have resulted in a life-threatening reaction because staff was operating as if the lunchroom was free of this known allergen. We don’t want to assume that peanuts are the only food allergen that could result in a child having an adverse reaction. There are many other food allergens that could pose a life-threatening reaction. By allowing all food to be brought into the lunchroom, staff will be better able to react to known allergens. Our staff will serve an alternate protein for peanut butter called Sun Butter. We will also offer alternate food options if you let us know what food your child needs to avoid due to food allergies.

We appreciate your flexibility and support as we continue to review our policies and practices related to wellness. We are reorganizing our district’s wellness committee and will reconvene in September. For more information about the above changes or if you are interested in joining the wellness committee, please contact me at 815-747-3117 or cwallace@edbqhs.org.

Warmly,

Crissy Wallace