Thrive Center for Success Birthday Party Policy

At Thrive Center for Success, we enjoy honoring students on their birthday. We also respect families that do not want us making a big deal out of their child’s birthday. We enjoy the child’s special day and activities that go along with acknowledging birthdays or half birthdays (if students have a summer birthday). We announce the birthday child’s name on the morning announcements, class sings the “Happy Birthday” song, and child will get a birthday sticker. Parent may also bring in the child’s favorite book that the teacher can read to them during snack time. Please follow the birthday guidelines below.

FOOD IN CLASSROOMS (Birthday Parties)

Thrive Center for Success policy is that NO FOOD such as, cupcakes, popcorn, candy will be distributed to the child’s class for their birthday on any food of any kind. The reason for this strict interpretation of school district policy is because of the growing number of students who struggle with food allergies, diabetes, and childhood obesity. This policy is expressly concerned with foods involved in classroom parties for students and is not meant to limit the preparation of foods directly related to the school curriculum and approved by the building Principal. *Of course, you may bring in a special treat for your own child on their birthday celebration day (i.e., a cupcake) for them to eat during their PM snack.*
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**Gift / Treat Bags (Birthday Parties)-Completely Optional**

Please *do not* feel obligated to send any gift bags to your child’s classmates to celebrate your child’s birthday. It is not necessary to celebrate your child’s birthday at Thrive Center for Success.

If you do decide to send a gift/treat bag for your child’s classmates, below are the guidelines to follow.

- No food items allowed
- Suggestions to put in the bags: stickers, bubbles, play dough, fidget / sensory toys.

**Classroom / School Gift -Completely Optional**

Some parents have chosen to let the birthday child present the school/ classroom with a special book or educational toy for all of the children to enjoy while at school.

- A game for the classroom
- A classroom book (A nice touch would be having your child pick it out, sign it, and date it.)
- A classroom set of items for each child to keep such as pencils, pens, erasers, markers, etc.

The items listed above will still make your child feel special and they will last a lot longer than a food item.
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• **Objectives:**
  - To create a healthy school environment and minimize disruption of learning.
  - To maintain the health and protect the safety of students who have life-threatening allergies during the school day.

**Overview and Rationale:**

Allergens, including food and latex, can trigger a severe systemic allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening emergency. Avoidance is the best measure to protect the safety of children with food or other severe allergies at risk for anaphylaxis.

**Procedural Guidelines**

• Remember **NO FOOD** is to be brought in and shared with the child’s classmates for their birthday.
• Non-food items (stickers, pencils etc.) for birthday celebration will only be shared with the student’s classmates.
• Non-food items containing latex (balloons, toys made with natural rubber, etc.) will not be allowed.
• Items will be checked by the school nurse and held in the office until the end of the school day, and only distributed to classmates at dismissal.

**Parent Responsibilities**

• Complete the Birthday Google request form at least at least two weeks before requested date of celebration.
• You may access the form on the Thrive website at Our School | Thrive With Autism (thrivesuccess.org) it will be under public information or email the nurse at a.burnett@thrivesuccess.org to request the form.
• [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewy0oRKNDaIv4GG3PVau94LmmwSrXfpAhThcaGpRcPnzbtkw/viewform?usp=sf_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewy0oRKNDaIv4GG3PVau94LmmwSrXfpAhThcaGpRcPnzbtkw/viewform?usp=sf_link)
• Bring birthday treat bags **(optional)** to the nurse office the day of the approved celebration.
• Remember no food or latex items

**Nurse / Teacher Responsibilities**

• Will assure all birthday celebration items are non-food items and not made of latex.
• Will check classroom allergy list to avoid allergen exposure.
• Nurse will inform the classroom teacher of the approved birthday celebration date for your child.
• Teacher will send birthday celebration items home at dismissal.