



Arthur I. Meyer Jewish Academy

Benjamin S. Hornstein Elementary School – Rapaport Middle School
Lore and Eric F. Ross Endowment Fund

Nehemia Ichilov, *Headmaster*
Harriet and Alan Miller Chair for Education

6 Elul 5770
August 16, 2010

Dear Meyer Academy Family,

With less than 24 hours to go before the students come back to school we would like to bring notice to a few remaining items that have been brought to our attention during these last two days of back-to-school orientations.

First, a brief reminder about our food and allergy policies as they relate to our lunch program and classroom snacks.

As a Jewish community day school we are a representative sample of the wide range of Jewish ritual practice that exists in our community; and so, although we do not all keep the same levels of *kashrut* in our individual homes, our school “home” is kept to the highest levels of Kosher standards as dictated by the Palm Beach Board of Rabbis. This means that no foods which have not been made in our school kitchen or that have not been opened on campus from a sealed *hechshered* (kosher certified) package will be allowed to be consumed by students on campus.

Additionally, all snacks and foods brought from home, as well as those served by teachers in the classroom must also be kosher certified and brought in their original sealed packaging.

We understand and apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause, however, it is critical that this policy is followed, as children will not be allowed to consume manufactured and/or home-baked foods brought to school in Ziploc bags. Please note this does not apply to fruit and vegetables prepared at home and bagged for school.

Another important reason we will be enforcing this existing policy is because our snacks must also be “nut free”. We have a number of students with highly severe anaphylactic nut allergies and as a Jewish day school we will exhibit and enforce the value of *kol Israel arevim ze l’ze* (“all Jews are responsible one for another”) and recognize that these potentially life-threatening ingredients are not a “need” but rather a “want”. **The only place in the school where this policy does not apply is in Strauss Hall where we will continue to serve PB&J sandwiches during the lunch period and we will be vigilant to ensure that there is no cross-contamination between foods so as to assure every child’s health and safety on campus.** We deeply appreciate your understanding and support of these policies and look forward to being partners in raising our children to respect all rules...especially when they sometimes make our lives seemingly more difficult and uncomfortable.

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Z”l of Blessed Memory

Second, as part of our summer changes and moves on campus, Nurse Bobbie Saskin's Clinic has moved from the front office to room B-24 in the yellow wing. This was a strategic move to both ensure the necessary levels of student privacy as well as easier accessibility for Nurse Bobbie to all areas on campus. Please stop by her new "home" and say hi. I'm sure she'd love and appreciate your "healthy" visits.

Lastly, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new food service provider, ESL Catering and its Executive Director, Leonie Grupel (click here and read Leonie's welcome letter online under "[Food Service Information](#)"). Leonie is excited to bring her years of experience to Meyer Academy and looks forward to serving our children a menu of tasty and healthy foods on a daily basis.

Again, thank you for your attention to these last minute updates. We look forward to a wonderful, productive, and engaging school year.

B'shalom (in peace),



Nammie Ichilov
Headmaster