



Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Academy

Birthday Treat Policy

Dear Saint Charles Academy Families,

This year, in regards to Covid regulations and recommendations, we will be implementing a new building-wide policy regarding birthday celebrations. For the safety and well being of all students, **we will no longer be allowing food treats to be brought in.**

Some of these considerations that went in to making this decision include:

- **Safety and inclusion:** With serving food to children we are aware of food allergies and the potential for a life-threatening allergic reaction. These reactions range from mild to severe and even fatal. The safety of all students is one of our top priorities!
- **Celebrating the child:** We are able to celebrate your child and their personality; what makes them unique and special to us all!

Please know that we are not trying to take the fun out of birthdays. Classroom teachers will continue to recognize children on their special day in special ways. If you would still like to celebrate your child's birthday at school, please see the attached sheet for suggestions for non-food ways to do so. We just ask that you always check with your child's teacher prior to sending something in.

This is a learning process for all of us, but we trust that you understand how deeply important it is to respect and adhere to these guidelines. The safety of all our students is our utmost priority and we appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

Thank you for your continued partnership!



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Non-Food Alternatives to Celebrating Student Birthdays

- **Non-Food Trinkets:** Such as pencils, erasers, coloring books, etc.
- **Book Donation:** To our school library or their teacher's classroom library. We have special nameplates your child's name can be put on to be recognized.
- **Board Game Donation:** Classrooms are always looking for items to help entertain students on those rough weather days where we need to remain inside for recess. The office has nameplates that can be placed on the box so that your child can be recognized.
- **Recess Donation:** Recess equipment gets used up quickly with students using items daily. Donate a jump rope, basketball, soccer ball, etc. in your child's honor.
- **Show and Tell:** Ask your child's teacher if your child may bring in special items to show and tell their classmates about. Things such as baby photos, or a souvenir from a vacation, etc. are fun ways to let their classmates and teacher know more about them.
- **Indoor Free Time**—in honor of the birthday boy/girl, the class will enjoy 15 minutes of free time. Students can play, draw, read, etc.
- **Extra Recess:** Celebrate with 15 minutes of an extra recess to play outside.
- **Birthday Shirt:** Send in a solid color t-shirt with your child or a special birthday shirt for the birthday child with markers. Pass the shirt around the classroom and let each child sign the shirt or add a birthday message. This can be done the day before the birthday so the child can wear it on their birthday. If not a t-shirt, use a plain tote bag or apron.
- **Chalk Birthday Messages:** Donate some chalk so the class can write birthday messages on the playground.
- **Dance Party:** Celebrate with some appropriate favorite tunes!
- **Teacher's Helper:** Be the teacher's helper all day!