

Meals, Snacks, and Competitive Foods Policy

The latest USDA Smart Snacks policy provides for food fundraisers provided that all food items comply with the Smart Snacks nutrition regulations. As such, UME Prep has opted to disallow any food related fundraising events during the school day. Thus, fundraisers that sell food are not allowed on the campus at all from 12 AM until 30 minutes after the last class has completed.

Further, UME Prep has adopted the following local policies in regards to foods at breakfast and lunch and on campus throughout the school day:

- 1) Parents may not bring food items of any kind for children not in their household during the breakfast or lunch periods. (Ex: pizza for your child's table, cupcakes for the 1st grade, fast food for your child's class)
- 2) Birthday parties are not allowed in the breakfast or lunch periods. You may bring lunch for and enjoy lunch with your child. (see 1)
- 3) School Events: Students may be given food or candy items during the school day for up to three different events each school year to be determined by campus administration. The exempted events must be approved by a school official.

UME Prep has designated

- 1) the last day of the Fall semester (a day designated for end of fall semester parties),
- 2) Valentine's Day, and
- 3) the last day of the Spring semester (a day designated for end of spring semester parties) as the three official events.

During these events regular meal service (breakfast and lunch) must continue to be available to all students in accordance with federal regulations.

4) Instructional Use of Food in Classroom: Teachers are discouraged from using food items as a reward in the classroom. Students may consume food prepared in class for instructional purposes. However, this should be on an occasional basis, and food may not be provided or sold to other students or classes. Food provided for students as part of a class or school cultural heritage event for instructional or enrichment purposes would be exempt from the policy. Food may not be served during meal periods in the areas where school meals are being served or consumed, and regular meal service (breakfast and lunch) must continue to be available to all students in accordance with federal regulations.

5) Accommodating Students with Special Needs: Special Needs Students whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) plan indicates the use of food or candy items for behavior modification (or other suitable need) may be given such items.

6) Athletic, UIL, Band and Other Competitions: The Snacks and Competitive Foods Policy does not apply to students who leave campus to travel to athletic, UIL, band or other competitions. The school day is considered to have ended for these students. School activities, athletic functions, etc. that occur after the normal school day are not covered by the policy.

This policy does not restrict what parents may provide for their own child's breakfast, lunch or snacks. Parents may provide food and candy items for their own child's consumption, but they may not provide food and candy items to other's children at school. If you have any questions about these policies, please contact christina.bock@umeprep.org.