

The HHA recognizes the importance of fostering healthy nutrition and supporting the wellness of our students and staff. Proper nutritional choices are essential for the optimal growth and development of children. Well-nourished children are more likely to be prepared to learn, be active, and maintain their health as adults.

Our school and parental body must partner in teaching our children life-long skills for healthy eating. As most food eaten at school is brought from home, all parents are encouraged to make proper nutrition choices based upon Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide.

The HHA has adopted the following nutrition policies:

I. School Lunch Programme

The School Lunch Programme is committed to providing healthy food options for students. Lunch menus include but are not limited to:

- Pasta with tomato sauce
- Deli lunch: turkey, tuna, egg, and falafel (non-deep fry) sandwiches
- Pizza (with low fat cheese)
- Chicken or veggie hotdogs
- Homemade soup

On these days, parents are reminded to send with their child the balance of nutritious foods as lunch options include one main course item only.

II. Beverages Available at School

No flavoured carbonated beverages will be sold in vending machines on school property. All vending machines will have water or 100% pure fruit juice for sale. Pre-ordered milk and flavoured milk (2%) are available twice a week.

III. Food as Incentives

Food will not be used as an individual reward or an incentive for good behaviour, achievement or participation in the classroom.

IV. Class Parties

Teachers reserve the right to serve students food or beverages provided that those food items comply with nutrition standards that foster healthy nutrition and wellness. Such choices include: fruits, vegetables, low salt and low fat snacks, frozen yogurt, fruit juices, milk and water. At various milestones teachers will be given the discretion to serve food with higher sugar and fat content (cake, ice cream, candy, etc.) provided that this does not exceed two times per semester per class.

V. Holiday and Shabbat Celebrations

Shabbat and Jewish holidays come with their own traditions. In the preschool and younger grades challah and grape juice are served as part of a Kabbalat Shabbat programme. Some holiday celebrations will be accompanied by traditional foods fitting the occasion that may not conform to the nutrition standards detailed above. In addition, students in all grades may receive a small Shabbat sweet (ie. fruit jelly) from the school office in anticipation of Shabbat.

VI. Preschool Policies

Preschool snacks are to consist of fruits, vegetables, low sodium, low fat snacks (pretzels, crackers, plain biscuits) fruit juices, milk and water. For children's birthday celebrations, teachers will provide a list of acceptable items to mark these occasions. These will include the snacks listed above as well as a small cupcake or slice of cake.

VII. Special School Events

The HHA recognizes that special event days take place periodically throughout the year. Although the school is encouraged to follow the nutrition policy in all circumstances, on such designated days the Principal will have discretion to decide whether to serve or sell foods that do not comply with the standards.

VIII. Allergies

Allergies will be addressed on a case by case basis to ensure a safe environment for all of our children. The HHA is a nut sensitive environment.

IX. Healthy Snack List

Serving healthy snacks to children is important to providing good nutrition, supporting lifelong healthy eating habits, and helping to prevent costly and potentially-disabling diseases, such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, and obesity.

Snacks play a major and growing role in children's diets.

Below are ideas for teachers, and parents for serving healthy snacks and beverages to children in the classroom

Fruits and Vegetables

Most of the snacks served to children should be fruits and vegetables, since most kids do not eat the recommended five to thirteen servings of fruits and vegetables each day. Eating fruits and vegetables lowers the risk of heart disease, cancer, and high blood pressure. Fruits and vegetables also contain important nutrients like vitamins A and C and fiber

Fruits

Fruit is naturally sweet, so most kids love it. Fruit can be served whole, sliced, cut in half, cubed, or in wedges. Canned, frozen, and dried fruits often need little preparation.

- Apples (it can be helpful to use an apple corer)
- Apricots
- Bananas
- Blueberries
- Cantaloupe
- Cherries
- Grapefruit
- Grapes (red, green, or purple)
- Honeydew Melon
- Kiwis (cut in half and give each child a spoon to eat it)
- Mandarin Oranges
- Mangoes
- Nectarines
- Oranges
- Peaches
- Pears
- Pineapple
- Plums
- Strawberries
- Tangerines
- Watermelon

Nutrition Policy

Applesauce (Unsweetened), Fruit Cups, and Canned Fruit

Dried Fruit

Try raisins, apricots, apples, cranberries, pineapple, papaya, and others with little or no added sugars.

Frozen Fruit

Try freezing grapes or buy frozen blueberries, strawberries, peaches, mangoes, and melon.

Fruit Leathers.

Popsicles

Look for popsicles made from 100% fruit juice with no added caloric sweeteners

Smoothies

Blend fruit with juice, yogurt or milk, and ice. Many store-made smoothies have added sugars and are not healthy choices.

Vegetables

Vegetables can be served raw with dip or salad dressing:

- Carrot sticks or Baby Carrots
- Celery Sticks
- Cucumber
- Peppers (green, red, or yellow)
- Snap Peas
- Snow Peas
- String Beans
- Tomato slices or grape or cherry tomatoes
- Yellow Summer Squash slices
- Zucchini slices

Dips

Try low-fat salad dressings, bean dips, guacamole, hummus, or salsa.

Salad

Make a salad or set out veggies like a salad bar and let the kids build their own salads.

Veggie Pockets

Cut whole wheat pitas in half and let kids add veggies with dressing or hummus.

Nutrition Policy

Healthy Grains (bread, crackers, cereals, etc.)

Try to serve mostly whole grains, which provide more fiber, vitamins, and minerals than refined grains. In addition, try to keep the added sugars to less than 35% by weight and the saturated and trans fat low (i.e., less than 10% of calories, or about one gram or less per serving).

Note: Cookies, snack cakes, and chips should be saved for occasional treats, given their poor nutritional quality.

Whole Wheat English Muffins, Pita, or Tortillas

Stuff them with veggies or dip them in hummus or bean dip.

Breakfast Cereal

Either dry or with low-fat milk, whole grain cereals like Cheerios, Grape-Nuts, Raisin Bran, and Wheaties make good snacks. Look for cereals with no more than 35% added sugars by weight (or roughly 8 grams of sugar per serving).

Crackers

Whole-grain crackers like Triscuits, which come in different flavors or thin crisps (or similar woven wheat crackers), whole wheat Matzos can be served alone or with toppings.

Rice Cakes

Popcorn

Look for low-fat popcorn in a bag or microwave popcorn. Or you can air pop the popcorn

Baked Tortilla Chips

Baked tortilla chips are usually low in fat, and taste great with salsa and/or bean dip. Look for brands with less sodium.

Granola and Cereal Bars

Look for whole grain granola bars that are low in fat and sugars

Pretzels, Breadsticks, and Flatbreads

Low-Fat Dairy Foods

Dairy foods are a great source of calcium, which can help to build strong bones. However, dairy products also are the biggest sources of artery-clogging saturated fat in kids' diets. To protect children's bones and hearts, make sure all dairy foods served are low-fat or fat-free.

Nutrition Policy

Yogurt & Frozen Yogurt

Look for brands that are low-fat or fat-free, moderate in sugars (no more than about 30 grams of sugars in a 6-oz. cup), and high in calcium (at least 25% of daily value [DV] for calcium in a 6-oz. cup).

Low-Fat Cheese

Low-Fat Pudding and Frozen Yogurt

Low-fat or fat-free pudding and frozen yogurt should be served only as occasional treats, because they are high in added sugars.

Healthy Beverages

Water should be the main drink served to kids at snack times.

Seltzer

Carbonated drinks like seltzer, sparkling water, and club soda are healthy options. They do not contain the sugars, calories, and caffeine of sodas. Serve them alone or try making "healthy sodas" by mixing them with equal amounts of 100% fruit juice.

Low-Fat and Fat-Free Milk

Soy and Rice Drinks

For children who prefer not to drink cow's milk, calcium-fortified soy and rice drinks are good choices.

Fruit Juice - Try to buy 100% fruit juice
