

Northside Elementary School

Class Party Parameters

Purpose:

As with all celebrations, the purpose of a party is to celebrate socially. The following goals exist:

- 1) to teach children the behaviors of informal social experiences,
- 2) to develop experiences that celebrate our American culture, and
- 3) to provide opportunities for parents to join us in the celebrations.

Rationale for parameters:

- 1) Social get-togethers are important. They are not meant to be all-consuming and should not take away from the work at hand in a school – which is to learn.
- 2) Most social get-togethers are optional; people are not forced to come for a party. Students do not have a say and, therefore, the parameters need to be such that all the needs of students have to be accounted for. Some students are shy, some overwhelmed by a lack of structure, some have behaviors that are made worse by a lack of structure, and on and on.
- 3) A need to attend to the district policy on wellness exists.

REMEMBER – Parents may choose to throw a party for their child’s benefit anytime they wish. In school, parties serve an educational function. They are not meant to take the place of that which should be occurring as part of the home experience.

Party Parameters:

- 1) All teaching staff members must be in charge of parties, not class moms.
- 2) There can be no surprise celebrations for teachers. ANY party needs to be approved by the teacher.
- 3) The following lists specifics:

FOOD

- 1 or 2 kinds of drinks
- A maximum of 2 snacks appropriate for all eaters (or substitute for allergy needs), only 1 of which should be sweet.
NO OTHER FOOD IS NECESSARY
Exception: If party is being substituted for lunch, then lunch and 2 snacks are permitted.
- Snacks must be donated. Money may not be collected.

CRAFT

- Up to \$1.00 may be collected per craft
- Students not able to pay should notify the teacher
- Craft must be appropriate for the age level
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GAMES

- Games are the best way to foster the true meaning of a party as many children don't know how to social or get involved and games help everyone to be a part
- Games should be age appropriate

MUSIC

- The party should not be promoting dancing or celebrations with popular music as you might do at home
- Music may be used as part of games only
- Music only causes increase in volume for young kids when part of a party

DURATION

- The maximum of an hour is allowable for parties
- The party needs to be structured, NOT FREE. Children do not do well with a free structure
- Parties may not go past 2:30pm

GIFTS/Goodies bags

- Please do not give gifts to the children as part of the party experience. The experience is meant to be social.

GUESTS

- All parents need to have the opportunity to attend class parties at least once throughout the year. Some classes invite all for each party. Some classes invite different parents for each party, being sure that all parents get the same opportunities.
- Siblings should not attend. Pre-school children require attention. The focus needs to be on the children, not on young babies or toddlers.