



Minerva France Elementary School

4990 Farview Rd, Columbus, Ohio 43231
Phone: 614-797-7500 Fax: 614-797-7501
Tyson D. Hilkert, Principal
Ja'Niece T. Whitehead, Assistant Principal

Minerva France Elementary Families,

Minerva France Elementary School is reminding families we take an active role in promoting, supporting, and modeling healthy eating habits for our students. While we recognize that our children love to celebrate special events such as birthdays with their peers and teachers, we also recognize that we have a tremendous opportunity to promote healthy behaviors and to show students how to enjoy special moments such as birthdays without making food the focus of our celebrations. In an effort to nurture healthy choices and to strengthen our school-wide commitment to wellness, we will continue with the practice of individual student celebrations (birthdays, moving to a new school, etc.) by no longer allowing students to distribute edible treats for these events. Instead, we have identified other celebration options.

Below are our school's approved choices for alternatives to food treats:

- Distributed small tokens such as stickers, birthday pencils, or pencil toppers to the class.
- Provide an autograph book or tee shirt for your child that classmates can sign.
- Donate a book to your child's classroom or to our school library's *Birthday Book Club*. You may want to contact your child's teacher for book suggestions.
- Donate an indoor recess game to your child's classroom.

We appreciate your partnership as we implement our new school practices. **Please note that any food-item sent to school will NOT be opened or distributed and will be returned home with the child.**

We will continue to have school wide celebrations at which we will continue to share nutritious snacks and will allow classrooms to share some treats while being sensitive to food allergies.

Children embrace being recognized by their peers and teachers for special occasions and our practices ensure the focus of our celebrations are on the student and not the edible treat. We invite our Minerva France school community to join us in our efforts to promote lifelong, healthy, and nutritional habits in our students.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact the school office.

Sincerely,

Tyson D. Hilkert

Dr. John Kellogg, Superintendent

Visit us at www.westerville.k12.oh.us

Vision: Our vision is to be the benchmark of educational excellence.

Mission: Our mission is to prepare students to contribute to the competitive and changing world in which we live.

Values: Respect, Inclusiveness, Community, Communication, Collaboration, Innovation, Nurturing, Trust, Accountability