

Talmud Torah of St. Paul Kashrut Policy

The laws of Kashrut are complex and often confusing. Talmud Torah of St. Paul, as a community institution, has chosen a standard of kashrut based on the following:

- Faithfulness to the main body of halacha (Jewish law)
- Ability to implement the standards at the school
- Flexibility and respect for individual standards
- Relative freedom from error

Specifically, the kashrut policy of Talmud Torah for food served through the kitchen or to the whole class at an in-school celebration is as follows:

- Dairy or pareve meals are served; no meat or meat products are permitted for school use.
- All products must have a kashrut certification.
- Baked goods must be purchased from certified kosher bakeries. These include Breadsmith, Fishman's, and specifically marked Byerly's and Lunds products.

In all questions of kashrut, the decision of the Principal is final.

If you are unsure about what symbols indicated kashrut certification, googling "kashrut symbols" will yield several websites that show a variety of symbols.

Lunches and Snacks

Food brought in lunch boxes/bags for individual consumption need not have a kosher seal, although it must be dairy or pareve. To clarify, this means no meat, items made with meat, or meat by-products or seafood. Fish and eggs are pareve and may be brought for lunch.

If children bring their own lunches from home, the school provides milk and water. On special occasions, the school may provide lunch prepared by either a parent, staff member or the children themselves. All food provided for lunches is kosher. The school attempts to keep food nutritious.

Upper School students are provided with hot water for instant soup. We ask that parents take special care to send soups to school that contain no meat or chicken. Please read the labels carefully. For example the popular MARUCHAN brand of products does contain some animal products. There are many soups available on the market that are either vegetarian or that are Kosher/Pareve. If a student does bring soup with meat ingredients, we will ask the student to take the package home. We will offer the student a peanut butter and cracker alternative so that he/she has something nutritious to eat for lunch that day.

In order to be consistent with the halakhic principle of Ba'al Tashkhit (not wasting), we ask that you pack as little as possible that will need to be thrown away. It is best to bring lunches in lunch boxes or cloth bags with individual foods in reusable containers. Where flatware is necessary, use silverware instead of disposable plastic ware and include a small re-usable cup. As we cannot refrigerate children's lunches, include a cold pack if you like, to ensure freshness.

We encourage you to provide your child with nutritious food, including fruits for dessert rather than candy.

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Talmud Torah of St. Paul

Preschool, K–8 Jewish Day School, Afternoon Hebrew School and Midrasha

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