

Blyth Academy – Parties and Celebrations Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for classroom birthday and celebration events. It aims to promote an inclusive, respectful, and positive school environment while minimizing disruptions to teaching and learning.

2. Policy Statement

Birthdays and special occasions are valued opportunities to celebrate within the Blyth Academy community. However, celebrations must be simple, inclusive, and respectful of instructional time.

- **Only one class celebration per month is permitted.**
- All parties must be scheduled in advance and approved by the classroom teacher.
- Teachers and parents share the responsibility to ensure that all celebrations are safe, appropriate, and aligned with school values.

3. Procedures

A. Timing

Class celebrations must take place **outside instructional time**—during recess, lunch, or at the end of the school day. Teachers may reschedule or cancel parties if they conflict with teaching and learning.

B. Invitations

To avoid exclusion, party invitations should be distributed outside of school. Teachers may distribute invitations on behalf of parents only if the entire class is invited.

C. Coordination

Parents must coordinate all party plans with the classroom teacher ahead of time. The teacher will determine an appropriate date and time for the celebration.

D. Food and Treats

Parents should provide healthy, age-appropriate food and drinks. Examples include: pizza, fresh fruit, vegetables and dip, cheese and crackers, juice boxes, milk, or water. Candy, soft drinks, and junk food are discouraged.

E. Allergies and Dietary Needs

Parents must inform teachers of any allergies, dietary restrictions, or cultural food sensitivities. Teachers will share this information with other parents to ensure all students' safety and inclusion.

F. Decorations

Decorations must be minimal and approved by the teacher in advance. Balloons or large displays that obstruct visibility or learning spaces are not allowed.

G. Clean-Up

The class and teacher are responsible for cleaning up after celebrations. Leftovers and waste should be properly disposed of, and surfaces cleaned before resuming class.

H. Cultural Sensitivity

All celebrations must reflect Blyth Academy's diverse, multicultural community. Parents are asked to plan parties that respect students' cultural and religious beliefs.

I. Cancellation or Consequences

The teacher or administration may cancel or postpone a celebration if it:

- Disrupts learning,
- Creates a safety or health concern, or
- Violates school guidelines.

4. Conclusion

This policy encourages joyful, respectful, and inclusive celebrations that foster school spirit while maintaining academic focus. All parents, teachers, and students are expected to support and comply with these guidelines to ensure a positive and safe school environment.