*(School name)*

# School Circular to Parents *(Template)*

# Promotion of Healthy Eating in School

*Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

Dear Sir / Madam,

Healthy eating promotes students’ growth and prevents chronic diseases such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes and cancers. However, the principles of healthy eating are not commonly practiced among local students due to various reasons. Currently, about one in every five primary school students in Hong Kong is either overweight or obese. Therefore, it is necessary to develop and maintain good eating habits among students.

To help our students grow healthily and enhance their learning abilities, I am pleased to inform you that our school has already joined the “EatSmart School Accreditation Scheme”[[1]](#footnote-1) organised by the Department of Health (DH). Through adopting various measures to implement the “School Healthy Eating Policy”[[2]](#footnote-2) set out earlier and cultivate a healthy eating environment, we hope that our students could develop good eating habits. To encourage students to put healthy eating into practice in daily life, we would like parents to go hand in hand and cooperate with us. Details are as follows:

1. Parents who prepare lunch boxes for their children should refer to the *Nutritional Guidelines on Lunch for Students*[[3]](#footnote-3). Lunch boxes **should provide** **at least one serving of vegetables** (that is half bowl of cooked vegetables), **should not contain “Strongly Discouraged Food Items”**(for example deep-fried food or food with very high salt content) and**should not provide desserts**. The proportion of grains, vegetables and meat (and their alternatives) should be **in the ratio of 3:2:1 in the lunch box**, which implies that grains should consist of the largest amount, followed by vegetables and meat and its alternatives.
2. Parents should make reference to the *Nutritional Guidelines on Snacks for Students*3 regarding snacks arrangement. **Do not provide snacks and drink belonging to the** **“Snacks to Choose Less” category, that is food high in fat, salt or sugar** such as potato chips, chocolates, butter cookies, candies, soft drinks or fruit juices with added sugars. Parents can prepare healthy snacks, including fresh fruits, boiled eggs, low-fat milk, high calcium low-sugar soy milk or dry-roasted plain nuts. You can also look at the **“Database of Prepackaged Snacks”**[[4]](#footnote-4) on the website of the Hong Kong Nutrition Association for the snacks available in the market that fulfill the definition of **“Snacks of Choice”** and **“Snacks to Choose in Moderation”**. In addition, you can make use of the **“Healthy Snack Checker”[[5]](#footnote-5)** on the “EatSmart@school.hk” Campaign thematic website of the DH to conduct nutrition classification for prepackaged snacks with nutrition labels. Please note that students should take moderate amount of snacks only if it will not affect the appetite for the next main meal.
3. Besides the fruits provided by the school *(three times in every week)*, we hope that parents can **encourage and** **ensure** **students to take one to two servings of fruits every day**.

To learn more about healthy eating, please visit the thematic website of the “EatSmart@school.hk” Campaign of the DH (<https://school.eatsmart.gov.hk>) or school website *(*[*http://www.xxx.edu.hk*](http://www.xxx.edu.hk)*)*.

Thank you very much for your attention.

*(Principal’s signature)*

*(Principal’s name)*

1. Please visit the "EatSmart@school.hk" Campaign thematic website (<https://school.eatsmart.gov.hk>) for details of the “EatSmart School Accreditation Scheme”. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Please visit our school website *(*[*http://www.xxx.edu.hk*](http://www.xxx.edu.hk)*) or the appendix of this letter* for details of the “Healthy Eating School Policy”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For [*Nutritional Guidelines on Lunch for Students*](http://school.eatsmart.gov.hk/files/pdf/lunch_guidelines_bi.pdf) and [*Nutritional Guidelines on Snacks for Students*](http://school.eatsmart.gov.hk/files/pdf/snack_guidelines_bi.pdf), please

   visit the "EatSmart@school.hk" Campaign thematic website [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “Database of Prepackaged Snacks” (<https://www.hkna.org.hk/about-the-database-of-prepackaged-snacks/>) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “Healthy Snack Checker” (<https://school.eatsmart.gov.hk/en/content_esas.aspx?id=6131>) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)