

CANFIELD AVENUE SCHOOL
42 Canfield Avenue
Mine Hill Township, NJ 07803

2024-2025
STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

This handbook is designed as a guide for students to review and learn the rules of the school. A parent calendar/handbook will be printed with more detailed information and school policies can be obtained by calling the main office.

We hope this helps students understand the rules, procedures, and services available at the Canfield Avenue School.



Vision

We envision all learners maximizing their potential to be innovators, global thinkers, and lifelong learners.

Mission

Through a variety of learning experiences, Canfield Avenue School students will be challenged to maximize their potential in a nurturing and supportive learning environment.

Web page: <http://www.minehillcas.org>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Mine Hill Mission Statement	1
Table of Contents	2
Directory	3
Board of Education	4
School Hours	5
Drop Off / Pick up	5
School Attendance	5
Early Dismissal / Emergency Closing	6
Half Day Schedule	6
Visitors	7
School Lunch & Breakfast	7
Playground / Lunchroom Rules	7
Discipline / Demerits / Behavioral Points	8
Student Code of Conduct	9
Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying	10
Getting Answers & Solving Problems	10
Dress Code	11
Student Health / Illnesses	12
Possession of Alcohol, Tobacco & Drugs	13
Acceptable Use Policy	13
Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity	13
Bicycle Policy	14
Electronics & Cell Phones	14
Field Trips	14
Emergency Drills	14
Homework & Make up Work	15
Honor Roll	15
Lost & Found	15
Money & Valuables / Personal Property	15
Physical Education Procedures	16
Prayer	16
School Lockers	16
Food and Nutrition Policy	16

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mr. Lee Nittel	Superintendent	x 310
Mrs. Carolina Rodriguez	Business Administrator, Board Secretary	x 312
Mr. Adam Zygmunt	Principal	x 301

SUPPORT STAFF

Ms. Lori Lashevicki	Administrative Assistant to Principal	x 301
Mrs. Lilly Conroy	Front Desk School Secretary	x 300
Mrs. Debbie Hanley	Administrative Assistant to B.A.	x 311
Mrs. Angela Sabatino-Guerrero	Administrative Assistant to Superintendent	x 302
Ms. Rosalia Aragon	Accountant	x 313

NURSE

Nurse	x 115
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GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

Mrs. Lauren Snarski	Guidance Counselor	x 314
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CHILD STUDY TEAM

Mrs. Marie Giantomasi	Director of CST	
Mrs. Jessica Lopa	School Psychologist	x 220
Mrs. Luana Bruhn	CST Secretary	x 221

FAX NUMBERS

Board Office	973-366-8786
Main Office	973-366-3881
Nurse's Office	973-366-0594

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Mine Hill Township School district has a seven-member Board of Education. Members of the Board are elected for a three-year term and are responsible for conducting the business of the school district within state law and regulations developed by the New Jersey Commission of Education. **The Board meets at 7:00 pm in the EMC (see scheduled dates below or view our webpage).** Meeting dates, times and locations are announced in advance pursuant to the State of New Jersey's Sunshine Law. The Board establishes school policies, approves personnel appointments, adopts budgets, approves curriculum, awards bids, and in certain instances, makes final decisions on controversial issues.

MINE HILL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

2024-2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

Month	Meeting
July	Monday, July 22, 2024
August	Monday, August 26, 2024
September	Monday, September 23, 2024
October (Board Retreat)	Monday, October 7, 2024
October	Monday, October 28, 2024
November	Monday, November 25, 2024
December	Monday, December 16, 2024
January	Re-organization meeting to set dates for 2025 BOE meetings
BOE Meeting Time and/or dates subject to change, refer to website.	

SCHOOL HOURS

Canfield Avenue School Hours – K-6th Grade: 8:30 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Canfield Avenue PK School Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

ABC Growing Tree School Hours: 8:45 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Grades K-6..... 8:30 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Because no supervision is available prior to 8:15 a.m., students **must not** arrive before that time (except for band/Chorus, Jump Ahead, Safety Patrol or breakfast) or be supervised by a parent/guardian until staff is on duty. An outside agency will be notified after two recorded unsupervised early arrivals.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

Only Pre-K and Kindergarten students have specific drop off and pick up areas (by the Board of Education office). **All other students need to arrange a meeting location with their parents.** Teachers will be around the school supervising at 8:15 a.m. and 3:20 p.m.

IMPORTANT – Please ensure students are **picked up on time** on regular days at **3:20 p.m.** for grades K – 6, **2:45 p.m. for all PK** and for **12:30 p.m.** for all students on early dismissal days.

Unless students have a school sponsored activity, they are to leave school property immediately after the end of the school day.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

New Jersey law requires that all students attend school all the days school is in session except in the case of illness, religious holiday, or death in the immediate family. Regular attendance is essential to student's individual progress and the consistency of their educational program.

1. Following an absence from school, a student is required to **present a note** from home indicating the reason for the absence.
2. Students arriving **to homeroom after 8:30 a.m. are considered tardy.** Parents are required to report to the school office and sign the student in. Every 3rd tardy in a trimester will result in a lunch detention for the student, a demerit and a phone call to a parent/guardian. Multiple tardiness to school could result in further disciplinary consequences.
3. No student will be allowed to leave school due to illness unless the school nurse has taken necessary steps to contact the parents.
4. No student shall be permitted to leave school before the close of the school day unless they are met in the school office by a parent, or a person authorized by the parents to act in their behalf.
5. If a student is absent from school for more than **ten (10) unexcused days**, he/she will be placed on the school's retention list for consideration at the end of the school year.
6. A written notice must be given to each student's teacher prior to a religious absence.
7. If a student is not present during the school day due to illness, they are **excluded** from attending school functions until they are officially readmitted the next school day by the school nurse.

EARLY DISMISSAL

The Canfield Avenue School does not usually dismiss students early because of inclement weather; if we do parents will be notified through the district's School Messenger System.

EMERGENCY CLOSING

In the event that serious weather conditions occur school may be closed. Notice will be given by the following:

- **School Messenger**
- **Check school web site:** www.minehillcas.org
- **Facebook**
- **X (formerly Twitter)**

The Mine Hill School District has developed an additional emergency system called **School Messenger** to reach families by phone, e-mail, and additional forms of communication to notify of school closing. **Please make sure contact information is updated.**

Students are not allowed inside the building before the indicated arrival times. A 90-minute delayed school opening will be initiated on days when inclement weather is causing hazardous road conditions that might possibly clear up.

In the event that a delayed school opening occurs on a day when there are parent conferences scheduled, or any other 12:30 p.m. closing, school will not be dismissed early, and the conferences will be rescheduled.

All other afternoon and evening activities will occur as scheduled unless canceled later because of unforeseen conditions.

The following procedures will be in effect on days of delayed opening:

- Doors open at 9:45 and school will start at 10:00 a.m. and close at regular time 3:20 p.m.
- The school schedule will remain the same and students will have lunch period on these days.
- **Children are asked not to report to the school grounds until 9:45 a.m. as there will be no supervision available until this time. No child will be allowed in the building prior to the start of school.**

HALF DAY SCHEDULE

The following is a schedule for regular 12:30 p.m. closings, such as the day before a holiday, Parent/Teacher conferences, etc.

Canfield PK-6th 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
ABC Growing Tree 8:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

VISITORS

All visitors must check in at the Main Office upon entering the building, present their license/passport/non-driver I.D. each time they enter, visit, or sign out a student during the school day. The I.D. will be scanned into the Verkada guest check-in system, and a visitor badge will be created. This badge must be worn & visible anytime a person is leaving the office and entering the school. This new system will ensure accuracy and accountability of all people in the building at all times.

If you would like someone to visit the school for the day you must receive permission from the principal. We ask parents/students to provide the main office with one week's notice of a potential visit. **We ask parents to limit their visits to official school business only and that they wait outside the building at arrival and dismissal times.**

SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST

Students are responsible for bringing their lunch to school each day or purchasing lunch. All students may purchase an additional snack during lunch. Parents will be notified if any child comes to school without lunch. Breakfast is available from 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

- Lunch must be ordered during homeroom and students need to take/remember what they ordered.
- Lunch money should be placed in an envelope with the child's full name and homeroom and given to the teacher during homeroom to send to the cafeteria.
- Students need to be respectful of cafeteria staff while in line.
- Cafeteria staff will hand out lunches and students are not to reach for the one they want.
- If students do not have money, they may receive a hot lunch and pay the cafeteria the next school day.
- The principal will be responsible to contact parents/guardians about excessive money owed. Students will not receive report cards or records if money is owed to the cafeteria.

PLAYGROUND/LUNCHROOM RULES

Whenever large groups of students congregate it is necessary to establish strict rules to insure the safety of the entire group. The following playground/lunchroom rules have been established.

- Students are to sit at assigned seating by homeroom.
- Students are to wait until called up by table to purchase hot lunch/snacks.
- Students are responsible for cleaning their immediate area.
- Students will not be dismissed outside until areas are clean, and students are quiet.
- Throwing stones or snowballs is not permitted.
- Students are to remain in assigned areas within the vision of the playground supervisor.
- Unruly conduct, such as wrestling, fighting, pushing, or tripping is not permitted.
- Injured children should be taken immediately to the nurse.
- Before entering the building, students are to line up quickly, quietly and in an orderly manner in their designated area.

MINE HILL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY

The entire staff of the Canfield Avenue School has the goal of establishing an atmosphere throughout the school in which children will feel safe, secure, and happy, and in addition have a maximum opportunity to learn. The district's Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy (5600) can be found on the school website. We at Canfield Avenue School believe that everyone at CAS should:

- Demonstrate respect for self and others
- Be kind to others
- Behave in a responsible manner
- Be on time for school and class and be prepared to learn
- Cooperate with school officials
- Respect our school and other's property

Demerit System

Canfield Avenue School implements a school wide Demerit System for disciplinary infractions. Students who are referred to the office for disciplinary incidents and receive a detention or suspension will also receive demerits.

Each Tardy Detention – 3 demerits (every 6th tardy)

Lunch/Teacher Detention – 1 demerit

Administrative Detention – 3 demerits

Each Suspension (In-School/Out-of-School) – 7 demerits

These are cumulative demerits. If at any time during a trimester a student accumulates that number delineated by the trimester, then they are considered to be on the Behavioral Restrictions List and may not attend a social activity, participate in Field Day, end of year picnic, or go on a field trip held during that marking period. In addition, their participation in after school clubs may be prohibited.

Behavioral Points – Restrictions Begin At:

Trimester 1 - 10 demerits

Trimester 2 - 15 demerits

Trimester 3 - 18 demerits

Demerits may be eliminated from a student's discipline record by completing voluntary, approved community service projects either in school or out during the year. This may include working off demerits with a specific teacher, guidance counselor, or administrator. All community service projects must be approved by administration before taking place.

A written reflection must be completed for community service work completed before any demerits will be eliminated from the student's record.

With regard to field trips, the opportunity to eliminate demerits by completing community service ends one week prior to the date of the scheduled trip.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. All pupils are bound by law, policies of the Board of Education, and the administrative regulations of this school district.
2. In addition, pupils shall not:
 - A. Be insubordinate to teachers or other school staff members or disregard their instructions or demonstrate lack of respect for their authority;
 - B. Create disorder or disruptions on school premises;
 - C. Use, threaten, or incite the use of physical force against other pupils, staff members, or visitors to the school;
 - D. Steal, damage, or deface the property of other pupils, staff members, or the district; Vandalize school property or litter intentionally.
 - E. Engage in the sexual and/or other harassment of pupils or staff members;
 - F. Possess or use weapons, or any implement intended to harm others;
 - G. Use foul, abusive, derogatory, or demeaning language, including racial and ethnic remarks;
 - H. Convey information about other pupils or staff members known to be false;
 - I. Act so recklessly as to endanger the safety of others;
 - J. Procure the property of others by threat or intimidation;
 - K. Enter school premises or any specific portion of the premises without permission and without authority;
 - L. Intentionally miss class;
 - M. Cheat or otherwise engage in academic dishonesty;
 - N. Smoke on school property;
 - O. Falsify an excuse or any school document;
 - P. Set fire to or cause a fire in any way on school premises;
 - Q. Possess or explode a firecracker or other explosive device on school premises;
 - R. Sound or cause to be sounded a false alarm for fire, bomb, or other condition or circumstance hazardous to others.
 - S. Possess, use, or distribute a substance in violation of Policy No. 5530;
 - T. Engage in any other activity expressly prohibited by a school staff member in authority.

***Breaking any of the above rules will result in students getting at least 1 demerit.**

Please review our Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying Policy (HIB) Policy 5512 located on our website. Any reported HIB must be investigated by the school's anti-bullying specialist.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, & BULLYING (HIB)

Canfield Avenue School's Anti-Bullying Rules

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will try to help students who are bullied.
3. We will try to include students who are left out.
4. If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult and an adult at home.

Canfield Avenue School's **HIB Policy 5512** can be found on the district's website.

To report a bullying incident contact **Mrs. Lauren Snarski (Anti-Bullying Specialist)**
973-366-0590 ext. 314 or e-mail lsnarski@minehillcas.org

GETTING ANSWERS AND SOLVING PROBLEMS

The entire faculty of Canfield Avenue School welcomes student questions and we are always ready to address any problems students may have. If you need answers to any questions or have a problem, the first contact that you should make is with your teacher. After talking to your teacher or guidance counselor and you are still not satisfied then schedule an appointment with the principal.

Parents may view student's academic, attendance and disciplinary reports on the school's website www.minehillcas.org and signing on to the parent portal.

DRESS CODE

Prohibited Clothing and Articles

- Extremely low-cut, tight fitting or transparent clothes, bare midriffs and suggestive clothing, shirts or blouse with straps that don't cover undergarments (at least one finger width), or clothing that makes it difficult to function safely in all school settings.
- Skirts and dresses that end higher than 5" above the knee (mid thigh) or shorts that end higher than 8-10" above the knee.
- Outdoor jackets, coats, or hats that obstruct other's vision, are a distraction or safety issue.
- Bare feet, unsafe footwear, including skate shoes, cleated shoes, and footwear intended for the beach and flip flops.
- Patches and decorations that are offensive or obscene.
- Undershirts (underwear) worn without an outer shirt.
- Clothing that is overly soiled, torn, worn, or defaced.
- Nonprescription sunglasses.
- Clothing, apparel and/or accessories which indicate affiliation with any gang associated with criminal activity or have references to alcohol, controlled dangerous substances, or tobacco.
- Clothing containing profanity or sexual references or innuendoes.
- Clothing which includes racial or ethnic violence.
- Hats, hoods, visors, and other headgear that obstruct views or are a distraction to others.
- Any clothing that is likely to create a material and substantial disruption to the school environment.
- Small drawstring bags or clear backpacks can be worn only when entering or leaving the building and at the discretion of teachers and administration.
- Perfumes, cologne, or other body sprays are strictly prohibited.

STUDENT HEALTH

Mrs. Noreen Vetter, School Nurse, can be contacted at 973-366-0590 ext. 115 or nvetter@minehillcas.org. The nurse's office is always available for students who are genuinely sick or injured. The yearly screenings done by the school nurse include height, weight, blood pressure, vision, hearing, and scoliosis. If you would like to opt-out of any or all screenings, please contact the school nurse.

No child is to bring any medication to school unless these procedures are followed:

Medication required by students during the school day is governed by the following requirements:

1. Medication must be brought to the School Nurse in its original container.
2. Both prescription and over-the-counter medication, including topical, eye drops and cough drops must be accompanied by a physician's order, and a parental note authorizing and specifying the conditions for its administration.
3. Medication shall be dispensed by the School Nurse only, unless a "Self-medication Statement of Indemnification" is filed.
4. Information for students who are on a regular program of medication must be renewed at the beginning of each school year.
5. All medications and medical devices must be picked up by the last day of instruction or will be subjected to disposal.

Illnesses

1. If a student has a temperature above 100° he/she is expected to remain home a full 24 hours fever-free without antipyretics (Tylenol, Advil, etc.) before returning to school.
2. If a student is experiencing vomiting or diarrhea, he/she should not return to school until symptom-free for 24 hours without any medication.

POSSESSION OF TOBACCO, ALCOHOL OR DRUGS

BOE Policy 5530 All staff members shall be alert to signs of substance abuse by pupils and shall respond to those signs in accordance with administrative regulations. Any staff members to whom it appears that a pupil may be under the influence of a substance other than anabolic steroids on school property or at a school function, shall report the matter as soon as possible to:

1. The principal
2. The school nurse or school physician

The principal or his designee shall immediately notify the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the superintendent.

The principal must arrange for an immediate medical examination of the pupil:

1. By a doctor selected by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or,
2. If the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) doctor is not immediately available, by the school physician.
3. If neither the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) doctor nor the school physician is immediately available, the pupil shall be taken to the emergency room of the nearest hospital for examination and diagnosis. The pupil may be accompanied by the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if possible and will be accompanied by a member of the school staff appointed by the principal.
4. An examination conducted by a physician other than the school physician, or the emergency room of the nearest hospital shall not be at district expense. Treatment will not be at Board expense.

If there is a positive determination from the medical examination of the pupil indicating the alcohol or drug use interferes with the pupil's physical or mental ability to perform in school:

1. The pupil will be returned to the care of the parent(s) or legal guardian as soon as possible; and
2. Attendance at school will not resume until a medical report verifies the pupil's alcohol or drug use no longer interferes with the pupil's physical or mental ability to attend school.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Students at Canfield Avenue School are expected to make proper use of school technology and internet services. At the beginning of each school year, students and parents sign an Acceptable Use Agreement. **If a student does not follow the agreement, they are susceptible to disciplinary consequences that could include payment for damages, loss of computer privileges, and other school consequences. Parents and students must review the district's Chromebook agreement and Acceptable Use Policy #2361, which can be found on:**

<https://www.straussesmay.com/seportal/Public/pubELANOnline.aspx?id=83d15f9a2b8747b99b3de18d31b5d9b4>

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Mine Hill Township Board of Education is committed to the policy of affirmative action/equal opportunity with respect to its programs and personnel, and offers equal educational opportunities to all students, regardless of race, creed, sex, national origin, or handicap.

- District Policy 5750 - Equal Educational Opportunity
- District Policy 5751 – Sexual Harassment can be found on the school website www.minehillcas.org - BOE Information – BOE Policies

BICYCLES (Pupil use of Vehicles)

Bicycles may be ridden back and forth to school by students. Students must first have a bicycle riding permission form signed by their parents and approved by the principal. New Jersey law requires that helmets be worn until the age of seventeen (17). Bicycles must be locked to a bike rack, **the Board will not be responsible for any bicycle that is lost, stolen, or damaged.**

ELECTRONICS / CELL PHONES

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be kept off and left in the lockers or backpack during the school day or while on any school sponsored activity (field trip). The school is not responsible for any electronic devices or cell phones being lost, damaged, or stolen. Cell phones and other electronic devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process, undermines academic integrity, or violates confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual via pictures, recordings, or videos. According to BOE policy 5516, a pupil is not permitted to have turned on or use a cell phone on school grounds during the school day or when the pupil is participating in a curricular or school-sponsored co-curricular activity (i.e., field trips) but may use it in an emergency situation or with the permission of a school staff member supervising the pupil.

FIELD TRIPS

As part of the educational service of the school, children are taken on field trips requiring bus transportation. Such trips are made only if the parent signs a consent slip. All field trips are supervised by a regular classroom teacher and school dress code is required unless otherwise indicated by the teacher in charge. **Field trips are an extension of the school, and all school rules are in effect, while on any trip.** Students who exceed the marking period cutoff for discipline demerits may be ineligible for field trips and will not be entitled to a refund for the bus or admission fee.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire drills are required by state law in order to protect human life and property. To facilitate the evacuation of the building each student is to be aware of the nearest exit.

The following rules apply:

1. Leave the building through the nearest exit as directed by the adult supervisor.
2. WALK - DO NOT RUN.
3. Be as quiet as possible - No talking.
4. Listen for directions.
5. Students should move in the corridor in single file.

In addition, the district will practice other security procedures such as:

- Lockdown
- Shelter In Place
- Non-Fire Evacuations

HOMEWORK AND MAKE UP WORK

Students absent for any reason must make up assignments, class work and tests within a reasonable amount of time. **This amount of time is considered to be the same number of days that the student was absent.**

Students who choose not to do homework will lose privileges. Parents will receive specific grade-level homework policies in September. On all grade levels, homework is a factor in the grading process. If homework assignments are not completed, students and parents should expect it to affect report card grades.

Parents should contact the child's teacher to request homework if their child is absent. Requests made by 9:00 a.m. will be available for pick up at 3:20 p.m. in the main office.

HONOR ROLL

We are proud of our 6th grade students who receive high grades. A designation of High Honor Roll is given to the student who receives **A's in all subjects**. Those students who receive **A's and B's in all subjects** will earn placement on the Honor Roll. Students who meet these requirements will receive certificates at the end of each trimester.

LOST AND FOUND

Check the lost and found located in the all-purpose room. If you should find an article, you should turn it in immediately. Remember, someone else would do the same for you someday.

Lost items will be available for students and parents to search throughout the year. All items not claimed by the end of the year will be donated to a local charity.

MONEY AND VALUABLES

Students are discouraged from bringing excess money to school. When money is required for special events, a letter will be brought home to explain the cost to parents. All other valuables should not be brought to school.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students are to only bring objects to school that relate to academic accomplishments. Toys should be left at home unless they are part of a presentation. Expensive jewelry should never be worn in school. Cell phones and other electronic devices are allowed in school if they are left in the students' locker (or backpack) and do not ring during school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROCEDURES

Students are required to wear sneakers and pants (or shorts) for physical activity. Long hair must be tied back. No jewelry or earrings may be worn. If earrings cannot be removed, they must be covered with band-aids. If a child cannot participate in class for one or two periods, a parent's note is acceptable. If a child needs to be excused for longer than two periods, a doctor's note is needed.

PRAYER

Students at Canfield Avenue School are entitled to pray, read their Bibles or other scriptures, say grace before meals, and pray or study religious materials with fellow students during recess, lunch, or other non-instructional times. Faculty members cannot compel students to participate in prayers or other religious activities.

SCHOOL LOCKERS

School lockers remain the property of the district even when used by pupils. Lockers are subject to administrative search in the interests of school safety, sanitation, and discipline, enforcement of school regulations and to search by law enforcement officials on presentation of a proper warrant.

FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICY

At Canfield Avenue School, we love celebrating our students' birthdays and making them feel extra special! The classrooms celebrate the children's birthdays in a variety of ways; birthday stickers, birthday crown, birthday messages from their peers, birthday sign, pick a story to be read to the class and/or singing. It is a fun time for all!

We want to support our children making healthy choices and help keep our friends with food allergies safe. **No food** should be brought in for classroom celebrations. Should your child like to bring one non-food item for his/her classmates such as pencil, sticker, eraser, or bookmark or donate a book to his classroom library, that is allowed, but not required.

Store bought treats are allowed for Grade Level Parties (i.e., Halloween, Holiday/New Years, Valentine's Day, Spring Parties) with prior consultation and approval from the classroom teacher. Due to health concerns, treats and snacks for any occasion must be store bought, and in the original packaging. We strongly encourage you to select a treat or snack with nutritional value, such as fresh fruit and vegetables. Thank you in advance for your support of CAS's food policy!