

Hello Parents!

My name is Brenda and I am the Program Director's Assistant. I am also the one that goes through all the incoming mail for the students staying here at Youth Care. Our management team created a package policy last year and put it into place May of 2020. Our struggle has been trying to get staff, parents and students all on the same page following that policy. We are starting once again, too see a large influx in our mail volume and student telling parents they can send whatever they want.

We are reaching out to our parents, giving them a copy of the package policy and the No-No Naughty List (a list of items that **cannot** be at Youth Care) and asking for your cooperation with adhering to the policy. There are four days a year the students are allowed to receive care packages. These days are Valentine's Day, Easter/Passover, Christmas/Hanukkah and the student's birthday. These are the days you can send your student fun things and a gallon size Zip-Loc baggie (that closes) full of treats. Please do not send bags of chips or Takis, they will be donated to food banks. (Even if you child states it's ok to send it, they will not receive it.) The student has the opportunity to buy treats and chips from the snack cart every weekend if they earn it.

Even with the No-No List that was put out at Christmas to help staff with gifts that came in for the students, a lot of items still got into the houses that did not belong. Magnets and batteries being at the top of the list. So this year we're starting a little early and asking the parents for their help. Some of our kids are swallows and batteries along with magnets can be deadly. Parents please look at an item and ask yourself, "Can a suicidal child hurt themselves with this?" If you hesitate, or think yes, then please do not send it. The list we've made is extensive, but can't cover everything. Just look in the Youth Care Handbook, if it is not in the "To Bring" section of the Handbook, then do not send it. The packages are becoming overwhelming again, to the point that it is a safety issue for the campus.

The rest of the year we will be accepting packages that are necessities only and are **preapproved** by the therapist and Program Director. ***All other packages will be sent back at the sender's expense.*** Necessities include socks, underwear and possibly and change of weather clothing. We do provide hygiene items, but if your student does not like what we have you can send what they need, please **do not** send multiple bottles of the same item at one time. We do not have the storage space for it. Their hygiene box is the size of a shoe box so, please keep that in mind when sending hygiene items.

Please be aware that when you send a package and ask for a weekend delivery we have no way of tracking that package. Our office at Brighton is open Monday – Friday 8:00-5:00. Make sure you specify this in your delivery instructions. The office is also closed on holidays so plan ahead to have the package delivered beforehand. With the increased volume of mail, comes the increased probability of lost and stolen items. Your child does not need all of their belongings here or a bunch of new items. The more they have, the higher the chance of lost, stolen and missing items that Youth Care is not responsible for.

Please let others in your family know about the package policy because this includes grandparent, aunts and uncles, etc. NO little candy bars stuck inside cards, your student will not receive it.

Thanks you so much for your cooperation in advance!

Brenda