School Year Preparation

The State of Pennsylvania Mandates that all students receive <u>Required Vaccinations/Immunizations</u> to attend school.

All 9th graders or students transferring to School of the Future should have a <u>physical exam</u>, a <u>dental exam</u>, and all vaccinations required for school attendance.

***Reminder 11th graders advancing to 12th grade or students 16 years old should receive the 2nd dose of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4).

Health Information and Medication Administration

Each student is to have the <u>Student Health Status Form</u> and the <u>Student Emergency/Medical Information Form</u> filled out each <u>new school year</u>. These forms will assist the nurse in caring for your child when he/she is at school. The Student Emergency/Medical Information form also contains a section that will let the school nurse know if you give permission for your child to receive the standing order for Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen. This form also contains an opt-out provision if you do not want your child to receive the standing order for Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen. Please check the appropriate boxes on the form and return it to the school nurse.

Students who experience a minor, <u>non-chronic complaint</u> of pain or discomfort may receive Acetaminophen from the school district standing order, provided the parent or guardian has not opted out of this service. Female students who experience menstrual cramps may receive Ibuprofen from the standing order when a parent has not opted out of this service. Each of these medications is provided to alleviate discomfort so the student may attend classes. Persistent and recurrent complaints will require authorization from the student's primary care provider for repeated doses of medication. These Medications are not administered after 2:00 PM.

The Student Emergency/Medical Information form also asks if you give permission for your child to receive Albuterol or Epinephrine in case of an unknown respiratory issue or an unknown life-threating food allergy. These medications will only be administered in an emergent situation.

The Student Health form and the Student Emergency/Medical Information forms also have a section for the parent/guardian to fill out emergency contact information. Please remember to update emergency contacts when they change. This will ensure that we will be able to contact you as soon as possible if your child becomes ill or is injured while at school. ***These forms must be filled out every school year.

MEDICATION DURING SCHOOL

When possible, medications should be given at home. Medication will be administered at school, only when a student requires medication in school, and the medication cannot be given outside of school hours.

Students are NOT allowed to have any medications on their person or in their schoolbag at any time unless approved by the school nurse.

This includes asthma inhalers and over-the-counter medications.

Any medication (prescription and over-the-counter medicines) or treatment necessary during the school day requires the following:

- The <u>Request for Administration of Medication form</u> must be completed by the child's medical provider, signed by the parent/guardian, and updated every year.
- The medications must be submitted directly to the school nurse by an authorized adult in the original packaging from the pharmacy.
- It is strongly recommended that AM medications are taken at home with parental supervision.
- Medications that must be given during school hours will occur between 10:00 am through one hour before dismissal.

During the school year your school nurse:

- 1) Reviews required 9th-grade physicals and
- 2) State-mandated immunizations,
- 3) Monitors and develops school health plans for students with chronic illnesses,
- 4) Prepares 504 Plans and
- 5) Serves as a member of the School Team preparing IEPs for students with health conditions
- 6) Conduct screenings for growth, vision, and hearing at designated times, among other duties

***Please ensure that your child receives follow-up care from an appropriate provider when notified of a vision, hearing, or growth screen failure.

The school nurse may also see students for acute illnesses or injuries, which occur during the school day. Students visiting the school nurse must have a pass from the classroom teacher.

***Please note: We are not permitted to send ill or injured children home alone; an adult must pick them up. Please identify at least 2 responsible adults for this task, in the event you are not able to pick your child up from school.

Health Insurance and Behavioral Health Services

The school nurse may assist families seeking information regarding local primary health care providers or <u>health insurance</u> for their child. If a child needs counseling or behavioral health services, please contact Member Services at the phone number on the back of the child's insurance card.