School Health Office

Role of the Nurse
The school nurses, Barb Weingart, R.N. and Nancy Walker, R.N., provide daily health supervision and care, referral help for teachers and parents, arrange medical referrals and maintain individual health records. In addition to providing health care to students when they are injured or not feeling well, the school nurses are concerned with preventative health care.

Physical Examinations
New York State Law required that all kindergarten, second, fourth, seventh, and tenth graders and all students entering a school district for the first time, have a physical examination during the 2013-2014 school year. Many families choose to have this physical done with their family physician. Physical forms are available in the school health office for your health care provider to complete. The forms will also be sent home in the report cards of first, third, sixth and ninth grade students so that you may have this done over the summer. You may decide to have your child’s mandatory physical done here at school with the school physician. If you would like to schedule one here at school, please notify the health office before September 16, 2013.

As part of the required health examination, a student is weighed and his/her height is measured. These numbers are used to figure out the student’s body mass index or ‘BMI’. The BMI helps the doctor or nurse know if the student’s weight is in a healthy range or is too high or too low. Recent changes to the New York State Education Law require that BMI and weight status group be included as part of the student’s school health examination. We will be reporting to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), information about our students’ weight status groups. Only summary information will be sent. No names and no information about individual students will be sent. The information sent to the NYSDOH will help officials develop programs that make it easier for children to be healthier. You may choose to have your child’s information excluded from this survey report by notifying the school health office prior to September 16, 2013.

Immunization Records
Your child’s immunization record is a very important part of his/her ongoing health record while he/she is here in school. A copy of your child’s immunization record (a signed certificate of immunization, a record from your physician’s office, or health department clinic record is acceptable) must be on file at the health office. Please contact the school health office if you have specific questions concerning immunization requirements.

It is a New York State Mandated Law that your child be properly immunized with each of the following before entering school:

1. Completed DPT series
2. Completed Polio series
3. MMR vaccines (measles, mumps & rubella) – 2 doses
4. Completed Hepatitis B series – 3 doses
5. Varicella (chicken Pox) vaccine – all students born on or enrolling 01/01/1998 or born on or after 01/01/1994 and enrolling in 6th grade – 1 dose
6. Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis Booster (Tdap) born on or after 01/01/1994 and enrolling in 6th grade – 1 dose

Screenings
According to New York State regulations, grades K-5, 7 and 10 will be screened annually for distance vision. Hearing screening will be done on students in grades K-5, 7 and 10. Each student has his/her height and weight checked annually and scoliosis screening is done on those in grades 4 through 9.
**Health Records**

Your child’s school health record is a permanent record that may be needed at a later date, at the time of college enrollment or employment. It should be updated any time there is a change; such as any additional immunizations that have been received, any severe illnesses or injuries, any additional allergies, any surgical procedures, etc. Please call the health office with any of the above changes, or have your physician fax information to (716)326-2157.

**Medications**

All students who need any medication, either prescription and/or over-the-counter, must have a completed medication form on file in the school health office. Both the parent and physician must complete this form. It is a New York State Law that ALL MEDICATION must have a doctor’s written order. Medication must arrive at the health office in the original prescription bottle or in the original over-the-counter package.

**Illnesses and Emergencies**

The health office is to be used for those illnesses and emergencies that arise while a student is in school, such as: sprains, fractures, acute illness, moderate to serious injury, suspected abuse, consultation, suspicion of contagious conditions, rashes, toothaches, vomiting, and chronic health problems. If it becomes necessary to send a child home during school hours, the parent will be called. If for some reason you cannot be contacted please make sure that we have an emergency number and name of another person who could come and pick up your child. Please update these numbers whenever there is a change. Parents are asked to watch their children’s health daily. When children show signs of a contagious or infectious disease such as sore throat, fever vomiting, illness or injury that occurs at home, it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to evaluate the condition and treat or seek medical attention at the time of occurrence. Please do not ask the school nurse to relieve you of your responsibility as a parent by sending your child to her at a later time. She is to advise you to seek the advice of a physician.