

Dear Parents,

WELCOME! We are so pleased to have your child in the Ashe County School System. The goal of school health services is to help you keep your child healthy. We want him/her to have the best learning experience possible. Listed below are a few things you can do to assist us in obtaining this goal.

1. **IMMUNIZATIONS:** NC Law requires all students grades K-12 to have a complete immunization record. Bring the completed "shot record" to school as soon as possible. A "Request for School Health Record Information" will be sent to you if any immunizations are found incomplete. Children must have their immunizations up to date to continue in school.
2. **HEALTH SCREENINGS:** Throughout the year, children will be screened to assure they can see, hear and have good teeth. The following schedule applies to screenings your child will receive throughout the school year:
 - a. **VISION:** Initially for Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten (DIAL), 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th grades will be screened.
 - b. **HEARING:** Initially for Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten (DIAL), 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th grades will be screened.
 - c. **DENTAL:** Will be conducted as per the Registered Dental Hygienist with the NC Oral Health Section.
 - d. **BLOOD PRESSURE:** Will be screened in grades 7 and 9.

Additional screenings could be completed on all students including but not limited to 1) New to school, 2) In Special Education Program, 3) Failure of a screening during the previous year, 4) Academic problems in the previous Year, 5) And any student who presents with complaints, or teacher referral.

3. **CONSENT FORM:** Each year you will fill out a consent form for your child. This information is essential in helping us prepare to take the best care of your child. For example, if your child has diabetes, a history of seizures or any allergies, it needs to be noted on this form and returned to the school as soon as possible. The school nurse must be notified if your child has any chronic illness. Physician documentation is required to implement a plan of care for your child while he/she is at school.
4. **MEDICATIONS:** Please refer to the Medication Parent Letter and Policy for Administration of Medication by School Personnel. It is preferred for medication to be given at home. If your child requires medication at school, **DO NOT SEND MEDICATION BY STUDENT**, a parent/guardian must bring the medication to school and present it to the health room/guidance counselor. **TEACHERS/OFFICE STAFF CANNOT ACCEPT MEDICATION.**
5. **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:**
 - a. **HEAD LICE:** Anytime there are a larger number of people together, it increases the chances of acquiring a communicable disease such as head lice. Remember, it is treatable, and does not reflect on the cleanliness of you or your home. Anyone can have head lice. If a child is found with head lice, you will be called to pick up your child and have him/her treated. Children must be treated correctly before they can return to school.
 - b. **ILLNESS:** Ideally, sick children should be kept at home. However, sometimes we can be contagious when we feel well. This makes the spread of illness difficult to contain. Teach your children good hygiene practices, such as hand washing, covering mouth when coughing and using tissues when sneezing.

Please contact your school nurse with any questions, concerns, or assistance we can give you with your child. Our offices are located in the main office at each school.

Sincerely,

Your School Nurse Team