



K5 and Elementary Medical Policy!

Although we truly wish for our students a healthy school year, we know in reality that many of our boys and girls will become ill between August and the following May. We ask that you remember that one sick child in a classroom can lead to a dozen children with similar symptoms. It is essential that each family understands the HCA Elementary Medical Policy: **sick children are not permitted to be in school**. If your child is sick, please keep him home! This is common courtesy for your child's teacher, classmates, and office workers.

Although we do understand the challenge working parents face when their child is sick – of either missing work or finding childcare, it is *imperative* that the guidelines below be followed. We encourage you to formulate a plan NOW for the care of your student should he become ill this school year. Please join with us as we work together as a school family to promote the best community health possible.

PREVENTION GUIDELINES

- Train your child to wash hands with soap, especially after using the bathroom.
- Encourage and remind your child to keep hands out of mouth and away from eyes.
- Teach your child to sneeze and cough into his elbow, not into hands or the air.
- Instruct your child to never share drinks.
- Instruct your child to never share combs, brushes, hair accessories, or hats. Do weekly lice-checks on your child. Remember, you have to really look to see if your child has lice. Do not rely on itching.



MEDICATIONS

All medications (both prescription and over-the-counter) must be dispensed by parents only. Office staff and teachers will not be able to give any medications at school or after-care.

INJURIES

In the event of an injury or accident, parents will be notified immediately according to the information provided on the registration card. Only first aid is administered by the school. If school personnel views the injury or situation as serious or potentially serious, 911 will be called.



ANTIBIOTICS

If your child is on an antibiotic, he may not return to school until he has taken the medication for at least 24-48 hours AND IS SYMPTOM-FREE.

GENERAL SICK FEELING

If your child wakes up feeling sick – with headache, upset stomach, or overly tired – he should not attend school. Please allow your child a morning of bed rest in order to see how things develop. Persistent fatigue should be assessed by a doctor.

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FEVERS

Fever is a sign of potential contagious infection, even if your child feels fine. No child with a fever above 99.9 will be permitted to be in school. If your child is on an antibiotic and is still running a fever, he must stay home. If your child comes to school with a fever, you will be asked to come pick him up.



COLDS, COUGHS, AND SORE THROATS

A clear, runny nose is acceptable in school if it does not interfere with the child's ability to work. Anything *beyond clear* is a sign of infection and will not be allowed in school. Likewise, a child with a persistent cough must stay home and see a doctor. If your child has a cough or sore throat, he will be permitted in school only with a doctor's note and only if the cough is not distracting to other students. If your child comes to school with congestion, cough, or sore throat, you will be asked to come pick him up *if these guidelines have not been followed or if he feels worse during the day.*

VOMITING AND DIARRHEA

If your child has vomited or had diarrhea anytime after midnight, he should stay home the next school day. If your child complains of an upset stomach in the morning before school, please keep him home until you see how things develop. After vomiting or diarrhea, a child should be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school. If your child vomits, has diarrhea, or complains of stomach ache at school, you will be asked to come pick him up.

RASHES (Scabies, Impetigo, Ringworm, Chicken Pox and more)

All rashes must be examined by a doctor and a return-to-school doctor's note brought to the Elementary Office before the child attends class. If your child comes to school with a rash and without a doctor's note, you will be asked to come pick him up. We may require that the rash be bandaged.

PINK EYE (Conjunctivitis)

Pink Eye is highly contagious. Children with red, runny, itchy, or goopy eyes must not come to school until they have seen a doctor. If the diagnosis is Pink Eye, please follow doctor's guidelines for returning to school – with a **MINIMUM OF 24 HOURS ON MEDICATION**. If your child comes to school with the possible appearance of Pink Eye, you will be asked to come pick him up. He will not be permitted to return until seen by a doctor.



OPEN WOUNDS AND SORES

If your child has an open wound, he should see a doctor. All open wounds or sores must be bandaged securely when the child is at school.

LICE

Throughout the school year, your child may be part of scheduled head checks. If any lice or nits (live eggs) are found on your child, you will be called and asked to pick him up. At that time, you will be given detailed information for treating your child.

If you discover head lice on your child, *please notify the Elementary Office THAT DAY*. We will be discreet with the information; however it is imperative for us to check the rest of the class for this communicable condition. If your child has head lice, he must be treated at home and remain at home for the next two days. Before re-admittance to the classroom, he will receive a discreet head check in the Elementary Office. **HCA MAINTAINS A 100% NIT-FREE POLICY FOR READMITTANCE TO SCHOOL.**