

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES

WELCOME!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Nursing and Health Services welcomes you to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Following is a brief overview of some of the areas under the direction of the school nurse. Each category has more information available than could be provided here. Please contact your school nurse or the Health Services Coordinator's office if you are interested in additional information.

- ❖ **School Entrance - Immunizations:** Immunization requirements are established and audited by the State of Alaska. Each student must meet these requirements before entering school. For some students an additional dose(s) becomes due during the school year. The school nurse will review your immunization records, identify any additional doses needed and refer you, if necessary, to an appropriate provider. If, for any reason, your child receives an immunization after entering school, please provide a copy of the new information to the school nurse. The nurse will update your child's record so you do not receive unnecessary referrals. Exemptions from these requirements are available only for medical or religious reasons and must contain specific wording.
- ❖ **School Entrance - Physical:** Students entering an Alaskan school for the first time are to receive a physical examination. A copy of this exam is to be presented to the school at enrollment or as soon as possible thereafter.
- ❖ **Tuberculosis Screening -** Alaska law requires that any student (a) entering the District for the first time or (b) returning to the District after two or more years have a Tuberculosis (TB) Risk Assessment for Alaska Students completed by a parent or guardian. An answer of "yes" to any of the Risk Assessment questions requires follow-up. The parent/guardian must indicate on the Risk Assessment the method of follow-up they choose to have completed for their student. All follow-up actions must be completed within 90 days of enrollment.
- ❖ **Health Screenings:** Vision, hearing, and other screenings are routinely completed at specific grade levels. The purpose of such screening is to ensure that each child is able to see, hear and participate in the school day at the basic level needed for learning. This testing usually begins at the youngest grades in the fall and progresses upward throughout the year. Students are also screened upon request. Should your child's testing results be questionable, you will be included in the discussion and/or referral process.

- ❖ **Medications:** Signed medication forms are necessary for students needing to take medication at school. These forms are available from the school nurse and may also be downloaded from the District Web Site at (<http://www.kpbsd.k12.ak.us/board.aspx?id=3370>). *Please scroll down webpage for appropriate form.* Medication forms must be renewed each year. Prescription medications require prescription bottles. Specific grade-level policies are in place regarding which medications students are able to carry at school.
- ❖ **Illness and School Attendance:** Although school attendance is critical to school performance, this attendance must be in the classroom in order for learning to take place. A student who is ill or spending much of their day in the nurse's office is not learning and should remain at home. Should your child become ill during the school day, you will be asked to come and pick him or her up. Providing medication for a student who has a sore throat, headache, upset stomach, etc. is not a function of the school.
- ❖ **Sending a Student Home:** Students who need to be excused from school due to illness or injury will be released only to (or 'by' in the case of student drivers) an authorized parent/guardian or an adult identified by the parent/guardian as an emergency contact. It is critical that the front office has current home and work numbers, as well as those of a local friend or relative whom you authorize to speak for you or pick up your child when you cannot be contacted.
- ❖ **Student Injuries and First Aid:** Accidental injuries at school will be given first aid by the school nurse or, in his/her absence, by a trained staff member. Every effort will be made to notify you in the event of anything other than a minor injury. In an emergency, 911 will be called.
- ❖ **P.E and/or Recess Excuses:** Occasionally, minor issues arise causing the need for a lowered level of activity or a temporary excuse during recess or PE. Please call or write a note to the school nurse identifying the situation and your request. In most cases involving PE, the nurse will attempt to identify a reduced activity level within acceptable limits. This allows the student to receive a grade for that day. If the situation is more complex or lasts longer than 3 days, a written request from a physician is necessary. This request should list the specific activities to be avoided and the length of absence needed.

You may contact your **School Nurse** _____ at office # _____ or you may contact the Health Services Coordinator at 260-2390. Both of us would be more than willing to answer any questions you have.

We are looking forward to a great year! Thanks for letting us get to know your child.