KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

HEALTH SERVICES

WELCOME!

Dear Parents / Guardians:

We hope that this is the first of many years that you and your child will enjoy at our wonderful schools here on the Kenai Peninsula.

To expedite your child’s entrance into the classroom there are a few things required by Alaska State Law:

1. School Entrance - Immunizations. Each child must submit immunization documentation to the school at the time of enrollment. Immunization requirements are established and audited by the State of Alaska. Most kindergarten children need their last boosters at this time. These can be obtained from your private physician or Public Health. For some students, an additional does (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. Exemptions from these requirements are available only for medical or religious reasons and must contain specific wording. I would be happy to answer your questions regarding specific immunizations and immunization policy.

\*\*The school must receive documentation of your child’s immunizations and they must be complete **before** he/she can attend class.

1. School Entrance - Physical Examination. An entry physical examination is also required by the State of Alaska to make sure that your child is physically capable of participating in each part of the school day. This entry physical is offered by a variety of providers in the community. If your child has had a recent exam it’s possible that it will be sufficient. Please check with me. The physical is due within 90 days of starting school.

Here are additional 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 Heath Services Coordinator’s office if you are interested in additional information.

* 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 beings 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 Website at 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. All medication forms and requests MUST go through the nurse. Providing medication for a student who has a sore throat, headache, upset stomach, etc. is not a function of the school.
* Illness and School Attendance: Although school attendance is critical to school performance, this attendance must 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, your will be called to come and pick him or her up in a timely manner. If you keep your child home for illness, please contact the school to inform them and excuse your child. If your child has a fever 100F or higher, has vomited, or had two episodes of diarrhea, they are required to stay home for 24 hours after those symptoms have stopped without medication.
* Sending a Student Home: Should your child become ill during the school day, your will be called to come and pick him or her up in a timely manner. Some reasons a student may be sent home include, but are not limited to: fever over 100F, vomiting, diarrhea, and excessive cough. Students who need to be excused from school due to illness or injury will be released only to 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 excusal during recess or PE. Please call or write a note to the school identifying the situation and your request. In most cases involving PE, the nurse will attempt to identify a reduced activity level within acceptable limits. If the situation is more complex or lasts longer than 3 days, a written note form a physician is necessary. This note school list the specific activities to be avoided and the length of the absence needed.

You may contact your School Nurse at 260-1372 or the Health Services Coordinator at 260-2390 if you have any questions on these or other school health topics.

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

Sincerely,

Claudette Schlegel, R.N.

School Nurse